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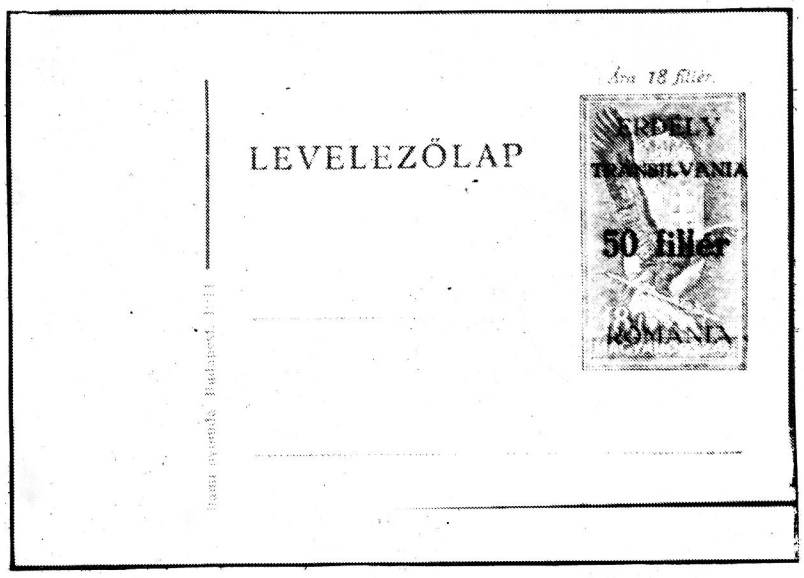
The ODORHEI 1944 Issue

GÁBOR RÁTAI, P.O. Box 7015, S-371 07 Karlsrona 7, Sweden.

During World War II, after Northern Transylvania was returned to Romania, in November 1944, the officials of several counties of this region held a meeting in Cluj. They raised the problem of a lack of both Hungarian and Romanian postage stamps. As a solution, they suggested that counties without sufficient stamp stocks prepare temporary issues. Accordingly, on Dec. 19, 1944, Ignatiu Szilagyi, prefect of Odorhei county, and Ştefan Benki, acting postmaster of Odorhei (Székelyudvarhely in Hungarian), gave Géza Sipos, a teacher of religion at the local Protestant High school (and a philatelist), written orders to gather in Hungarian stamps from local tobacco stores. These were to be overprinted for use as higher denominations.

What subsequently happened is described in great detail in two official documents. The first, written in Hungarian, is entitled "A Székelyudvarhelyi Béljegek Elkészitésének Története" (The History of the Preparation of the Odorhei Stamps). It was compiled and signed on Dec. 31, 1944, by Ştefan Benki and Géza Sipos. The second document comes in both Romanian and Hungarian language version and is entitled "Certificat Despre Timbrele Sursarjate la Odorhei" (Certificate Concerning the Stamps Overprinted in Odorhei). It was signed on July 30, 1945, by the same two persons. It bears impressions of the two rubber cancellers. ("1 P" and "2 P") as well as of the bilingual steel canceller used in conjunction with these stamps. From these sources, and through further research, as well as interviews with Géza Sipos and the late Ştefan Breuer, a Transylvanian official and philatelist, familiar with the making of several Northern Transylvanian Issues, the following sequence of events has been reconstructed:



Upper right corner of overprinted postal card

Géza Sipos, accompanied by Detective Orbán who was assigned to this task, visited the following tobacconists in Odorhei and collected Hungarian stamps and postal cards as shown below:

Tobacconist	*Address*	*Stamps*	*Postal Cards*	*Total Value*
Widow of Pál Kovács	Kossuth Street	572.40 Pengö	259.74 Pengö	832.14 Pengö
Sándor Hollósy	Orbán Balázs St.	77.60	72.00	149.60
Emma Szász Báncs	Kossuth Street	190.24	55.26	245.50
Orbán Brothers	Batthyány Square	60.40	25.20	85.60
Béla Varga	Bethlen Street	28.32	—	28.32
Ernö Balási	Kökereszt Square	45.04	54.00	99.04
Totals		974.00 Pengö	466.20 Pengö	1,440.20 Pengö

Impressions of the rubber cancellers

A total of 7,358 stamps, and 2,590 of the 18 filler postal cards were collected, with a total face value of 1,440.- 20 Pengö. The officials issued receipts to the tobacconists, copies of which were kept by Géza Sipos. Both Sipos and Detective Orbán signed a statement listing the collected material and it was given to the police. The stamps and postal cards were taken to the Minerva printing shop where the overprinting was done in the presence of Géza Sipos and Detective Orbán.

312 stamps with a total face of 21.84 Pengö and 4 postal cards with a total face value of 72 fillér were deemed inadequate for overprinting and were destroyed. Thus, only 7,046 stamps and 2,586 postal cards were overprinted. Full, 100-stamps sheets, as well as incomplete sheets were put to use. A foot activated printing press, utilizing shiny black ink, was used. The overprinting was applied simultaneously on 20 stamps (2 rows of 10 stamps each). Some unit blocks of 20 stamps were made up by pasting adhesive stips on their backs to tape together different types of stamps. The printing plate had to be rearranged to fit the large size stamps (4 and 40 fillér). The identical text, with only the denomination varying reads:

Original overprints

Erdély
Transilvania
-, 50 P.
România

or "*1.-P.*" and "*2.-P.*," respectively.

The 18 fillér Hungarian postal cards were individually overprinted in black with a text that reads:

ERDÉLY
TRANSILVANIA
50 fillér
ROMÂNIA

On six of these postal cards, 4 filler "Kossuth with family" stamps, overprinted "-.50 P.," were affixed, these being obliterated by the steel canceller used in conjunction with these stamps. Thus the six "-.50 P./4 f" overprinted stamps exist only used.

Due to defects in the overprinting process, a total of 93 stamps and 6 cards as follows were destroyed:

-.50 P./4f	*52 stamps*
-.50. P./5f	*10 stamps*
1.-P./18f	*20 stamps*
2.-P./30f	*11 stamps*
50f/18f	*6 postal cards*

The remaining 6,953 overprinted stamps and 2,580 overprinted postal cards make up the Odorhei issue, as follows:

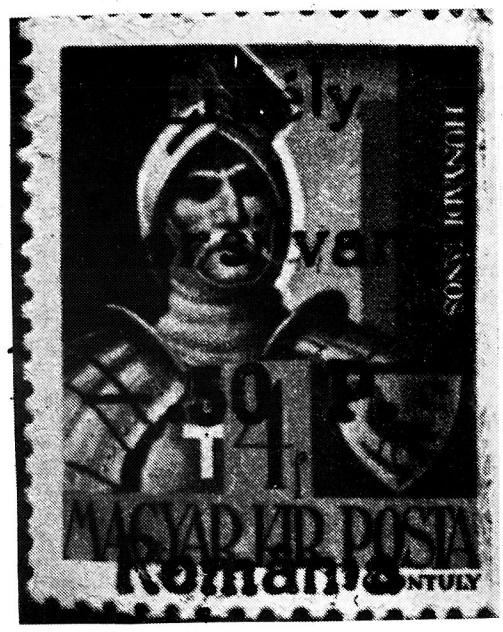
Original "P" **Counterfeit "P"**

Counterfeit overprint made with original typeface genuine cancellation

No.	*Type*	*Color*	*Scott*	*Zumstein*	*Denomination*	*Quantity*	*Value*
1	Árpád	greenish black	601	707	-.50 P./ 1f	400	200
2	Miklos Tóldi	ultramarine	603	709	-.50 P./ 3f	620	310
3	János Hunyadi	brown	604	710	-.50 P./ 4f	1,248	624
4	Kossuth with family	yellow brown	621	747	-.50 P./ 4f	6	3
5	Pál Kinizsi	vermilion	605	711	-.50 P./ 5f	10	5
6	King Ladislaus I	red orange	602	708	1.-P./ 2f	2	2
7	János Hunyadi	brown	604	710	1.-P./ 4f	900	900
8	Miklos Zrinyi	slate blue	606	712	1.-P./ 6f	98	98
9	András Hadik	brown	608	714	1.-P./10f	278	278
10	Crown of St. Stephen	olive brown	583	677	1.-P./10f	2	2
11	Patroness of Hungary	dark grey	610	716	1.-P./18f	1,740	1,740
12	Crown of St. Stephen	chestnut brown	611	717	1.-P./20f	160	160
13	St. Margaret	deep carmine	620	755	1.-P./30f	800	800
14	Kossuth with family	yellow brown	621	747	2.-P./ 4f	40	80
15	St. Margaret	deep carmine	620	755	2.-P./30f	400	400
16	Elisabeth Szilagyi	copper red	627	758	2.-P./30f	189	378
17	Reformed Church	grey black	590	726	2.-P./40f	40	80
18	Crown of St. Stephen	green	616	722	2.-P./ 1P	20	40
						6,953	6,500

Top of favor cancelled military postal card

Counterfeit overprint-genuine cancellation



Counterfeit overprint

Counterfeit overprint

Counterfeit overprint-genuine cancellation

The total value of the 18 different overprinted stamps is 6,500 Pengö and the value of the 2,586 overprinted postal cards (50 fillér each) totals 1,290 Pengö, making the grand total 7,790 Pengö.

20 of the 1.-P/18f "Patroness of Hungary" stamps received inverted overprints, not double overprints, as some catalogues (Zumstein) mistakenly list. The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 erroneously list the "-.50 P" (50 fillér) as "50 P", illustrates the overprint in the wrong place (with the Tîrgu-Mures issue) and wrongly with a comma instead of a period and with a lower case "p" instead of a capital "P".

Shifted overprints, horizontally and/or vertically, are known.

After overprinting, most of the stamps and cards were distributed to the six tobacco shops, from which they had been collected in the first place, as well as to the Odorhei post office. Each tobacconist received overprinted stamps and postal cards with face values exactly or almost exactly equal to those they nad supplied for overprinting, as follows:

Tobacconist	Stamps	Postal Cards	Total Value
Widow of Pál Kovács	572.00 Pengö	260.00 Pengö	832.00 Pengö
Sándor Hollósy	77.50	72.00	149.50
Emma Szász Báncs	190.00	55.50	245.50
Orbán Brothers	60.00	25.50	85.50
Béla Varga	28.00		28.00
Ernö Balási	45.00	54.00	99.00
		Grand Total:	1,439.50 Pengö

Impression of the steel canceller

The 70 fillér difference between the collected 1,440.20 Pengö and the returned 1,439.50 Pengö was given in the form of unoverprinted stamps.

As the total face value of the stamps and cards after overprinting was 7,790 Pengö (6,500 P. and 1,290 P.) while that of the stock returned to the tobacco shops was 1,439.50 Pengö, a profit of 6,530.50 Pengö resulted. For his work, Géza Sipos asked for a commission of approximately 3.3% of the profits and he received 214.50 Pengö in overprinted stamps. The printing cost of 160 Pengö and the 75 Pengö expense for re-engraving of the steel canceller were also paid in the form of overprinted stamps. Furthermore, the following persons each received gratis one set of overprinted stamps:

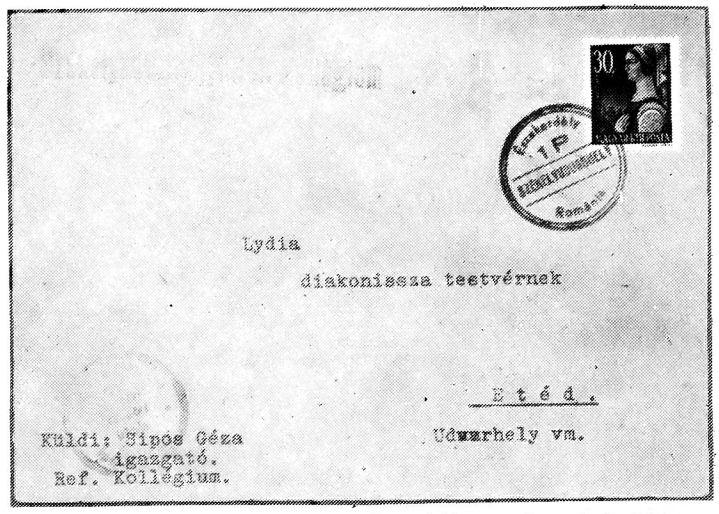
Ignațiu Szilágyi, prefect
Ferenc Dobos, mayor,
Mihály Sámuel, president of MADOSZ (a political organization),
Deputy Chief of police
Manager of Minerva printing shop,
Detective Orbán.

The total value of these gifts was 116.50 Pengö, however, the prefect reimbursed the posts for the stamps he received (15.50 Pengö) reducing the value of the gifts to 101 Pengö. With the total expenses and gifts (550.50 Pengö) reducing the post's initial profit, the net profit became 5,800 Pengö.

While the first of the above mentioned certificates states that these stamps were issued on Dec. 23, 1944, the second (signed by the same people as the first) gives the issue date as Dec. 30, 1944. They were used in Odorhei County and in Northern Transylvania until the end of May, 1945, when supplies ran out.

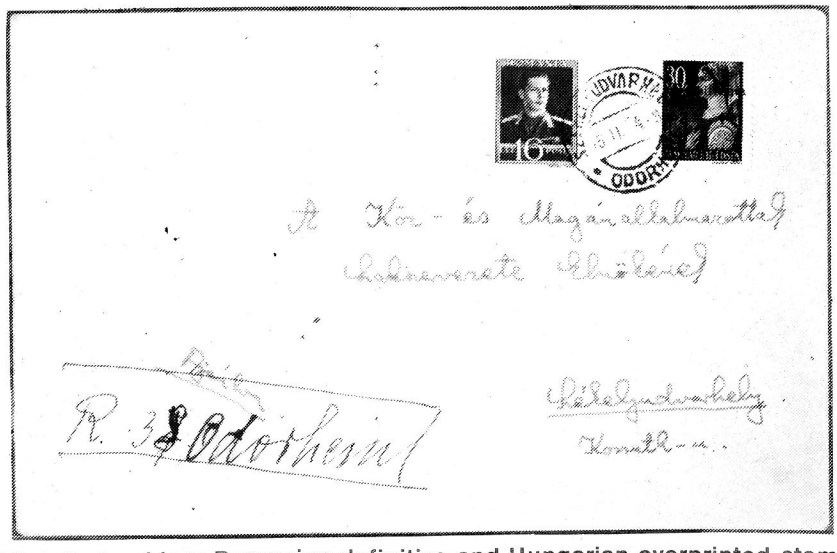
Obliteration was carried out using an engraved bilingual (Hungarian and Romanian) date canceller, 27.5 mm. in diameter reading "SZEKELYUDVARHELY ODORHEI", with date on the center bridge. The canceller was made by re-engraving an old Hungarian canceller used in Homorodfürdö. It was first used on the evening of Dec. 30, 1944.

Before the overprinting took place, the Odorhei post office had been using a unique franking system. The sender had to affix stamps totalling 30 filler; at the post office window, these stamps were then obliterated with "1 P" or "2 P" rubber cancellations, the

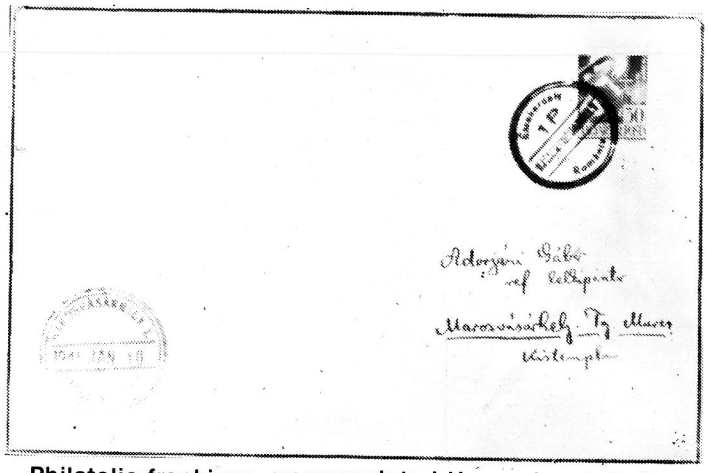


Philatelic franking: unoverprinted Hungarian definitive

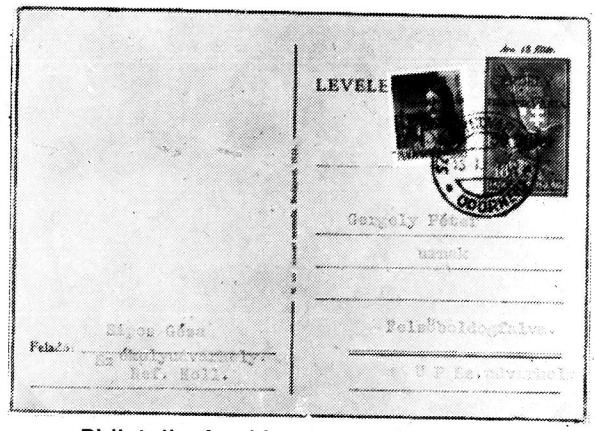
Philatelic franking: Romanian and Hungarian definitives, incorrect rate



Philatelic franking: Romanian definitive and Hungarian overprinted stamp



Philatelic franking: unoverprinted Hungarian definitive



Philatelic franking: overprinted stamp on overprinted postal card

difference between 30 fillér and the required postal rate being paid in cash. The double-circle rubber cancellers, 28.5 & 27 mm. in diameter, read "Északerdély" on the top, "Românía" on the bottom, "SZÉKELYUDVARHELY" on the center bridge and "1 P" or "2 P" above the bridge. During the period of postal use of these cancellers, the ink used was greyish green blue. Black ink was used later for favor cancellations. These rubber cancellers were genuinely used for only 3 to 4 weeks. The Sighişoara post office refused to forward letters marked with these cancellers because they did not contain dates.

The Odorhei post office also accepted Romanian stamps with the portrait of King Michael, despite the fact that they did not have them in stock. The rate of exchange was calcululated at 1 Pengö per 10 Lei. However, at least 90% of this type of franking are philatelic fabrications.

The postal rates were: 50 fillér for postcards, 1 Pengö for ordinary letters and 2 Pengö for registered.

Letters mailed outside Odorhei county are scarce as the censors and postal officials of Sighisoara only rarely let through mail franked with this provisional issue. Most covers with Odorhei stamps were produced by stamp collectors and many are favor cancelled, rather than postally used. Many were prepared by Géza Sipos, as can be seen by the return address. He took advantage of his position, being in charge of this issue and being paid with overprinted stamps.

Romanian postal cards with imprinted stamps depicted King Michael, are know favor cancelled by the "1 P " rubber canceller. Covers and postal cards franked with various combinations of Romanian and/or unoverprinted Hungarian definitives, as well as with overprinted Odorhei stamps which do not conform to any of the then prevailing postal rates are also known. The were favor cancelled and often have wrong dates. For example, a postcard prepared by Géza Sipos was franked with Romanian and Hungarian stamps, even with a 2 Lei fiscal stamp, all obliterated with the "1 P " rubber canceller. However, the date cancel shows that the card was allegedly mailed on Jan. 8, 1945 (45 I.8) when the overprinted stamps and the steel canceller were in use. Another cover, with Géza Sipos' handwriting, allegedly mailed registered from Odorhei to Odorhei (which already should be suspicious) has besides the required 2.-P./30 f stamps, an unnecessary 16 Lei Romanian definitive, to create a mixed franking. Another cover, withe the same handwriting, bearing a 30 filler unoverprinted Hungarian definitive, obliterated with the "1 P " canceller, was allegedly mailed from Odorhei to Tîrgu Mureş. The date on the arrival marking shows "Jan. 10, 1945" when the overprinted stamps were already in use.

The overprints have been counterfeited several times. Most counterfeits are badly made, with typefaces differing from those of the original, thus easily recognizable. Two types, however, are better, having been made using some of the same printer's type from which the originals were produced. Only the letter "P" in "Pengö" differs on all but one of the counterfeits from that on the originals. The originals, however, differ from all known counterfeits in that originals were made with shiny, tar-black ink, and the impression can be clearly seen on back of mint stamps, just as on the Tîrgu Mureş issue. Stamps having counterfeit overprint, but cancelled with the original canceller, are known, as are covers bearing such stamps.

Anybody have further information on the Odorhei issue, and/or who is willing to trade items of the Northern Transylvania issues, is invited to write me directly.

TO OUR ROMANIAN READERS

Bulletin No. 2/1983 contained "The Iron Guard Issues" and "The Romanian Transnistria Issue". Both articles describe "prohibited" issues, giving their historical background. Therefore, we did not send this edition to Romania as it would not have passed the censor. Sever al previous bulletins, including some with no controversial subjects, have not reached Romanian destinations. In certain cases, copies of an issue were retained by those who decide what should, and what should not be read by the Romanian philatelist, while other copies of the very same issue were passed.

We can not see any logical pattern concerning what is or is not permitted to enter Romania. Therefore, in the future, instead of risking loss of the more than 200 copies we now send free of charge to Romanian philatelists, we will send only a few samples. If and when these are confirmed as having been received by their addressees, we will send the rest.

Our apologies for this inconvenience, although the solution to this problem does not depend on us. We will be pleased to continue sending our publication to anybody interested in it in Romania, but no censor will be allowed to influence its contents.

1944-45
TRANSYLVANIAN LOCALS

Want to buy or trade for varieties, proofs, essays, covers etc. Especially need several Odorheiu overprints and the Satu-Mare fantasy set. Have several "Posta Sălajului" overprints to sell or trade. Also interested in Post-WW II locals from other European countries.

Jay T. Carrigan
12000 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station, VA. 22039

ARS PHILATELICA
DEALERS IN THE STAMPS OF ROMANIA
P.O. BOX 1765
SILVER SPRING, MD. 20902, U.S.A.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS IN ROMANIA FOR WW II U.S. P.O.W.s

Peter Leibowitz 218-10 36th Avenue, Bayside, N.Y. 11361

The Ploesti oil fields and refineries served as major material sources for the Nazi German war machine. The Allies sent wave after wave of bombers over Romania to destroy these strategic targets. Many of these planes were shot down. Subsequently, their pilots and crews were captured. These Allied troops were then interned at various sites in Romania.

Until now, little detail about the U.S. P.O.W.s' postal arrangements has been written. Norman Gruezner's "Postal History of American P.O.W.s: World War II, Korea, Vietnam" was recently published (1979) as part of the A.P.S. Handbook Series. While this work does touch on our subject, it leaves many questions unanswered.

The author has been fortunate to make contact with Mr. James Miceli, president of the Association of Former Prisoners of War in Romania. Letters from him and telephone conversations with him provided the basis for most information appearing in this article. The association he heads consists of about 1,400 members. Therefore, the number of U.S. P.O.W.'s in Romania must have been larger than the figure Gruenzner gives-995.

The Romanian military ran the camps in which American and other P.O.W.s were held. Temporary camps run by the German military existed on Romania's territory, e.g. the one near Timişoara, for Yugoslav P.O.W.s. Gruenzner enumerates Braşov Military Hospital, Camp Timişul de Jos, Regina Elisabetha Hospital (in Bucharest), and Sinaia Military Hospital. Undoutedly, other facilities existed, as indicated by Miceli's letter of Dec. 8, 1982. Miceli states that he had been held in "Lagărul de Prizonieri No. 13", a schoolhouse situated in Bucharest's center which quartered American officers plus some half-dozen captured Russian enlisted men. The later worked in the kitchens and performed orderly tasks. Miceli knew of two other camps in the area, one for enlisted men being on the outskirts of Bucharest, and another within Bucharest for officers who had been captured earlier.

Rules concerning mail were not put into writing, but were orally communicated to the prisoners. Each facility could thus have promulgated its own regulations covering how many cards, letters and/or parcels a prisoner could send or receive. Judging by the dates showing on three postcards (July 11, 22 and 27, 1944) mailed home by Mr. Miceli, we conclude that at Camp No. 13, one card (or letter) per week was allowed to be sent. However, Mr. Miceli reported that during his stay there, he received no cards or letters from his family, despite the fact that they did write several times. All he ever did receive was one Red Cross parcel, and, at that, only one day before the Russians entered in Bucharest.

Special labels, airletter forms, lettersheets and postcards were to be utilized by both the internees and their families. We illustrate a postcard sent by Lt. James Miceli while being a P.O.W. in Romania to his wife in Jackson Heights, N.Y., USA. It is an unfranked form card, issued by the Romanian Red Cross Society. These were distributed to the prisoners who could send them "Gratuita" (Free of charge). This one, dated July 11, 1944, was dispatched on July 20, 1944. It measures about 105 by 150 mm, and bears a circular, red handstamp of the "Biroul Refugiaţi" (Refugee Office) of the Romanian Red Cross Society, which was incorrect because that office was handling P.O.W.s rather than refugees, as well as the round purple handstamp of the International Red Cross in Geneva, and a small, black, circular handstamp of the numeral "12". A U.S. censorship marking, "11076", applied in purple, is found in the lower left corner, and the date on which the card left Romania is in the upper right corner.

Some similiar P.O.W. cards bear a slightly different "Societatea Naţională de Cruce Roşie a Romăniei" marking, with different typeface and without the words "Biroul Refugiaţi".

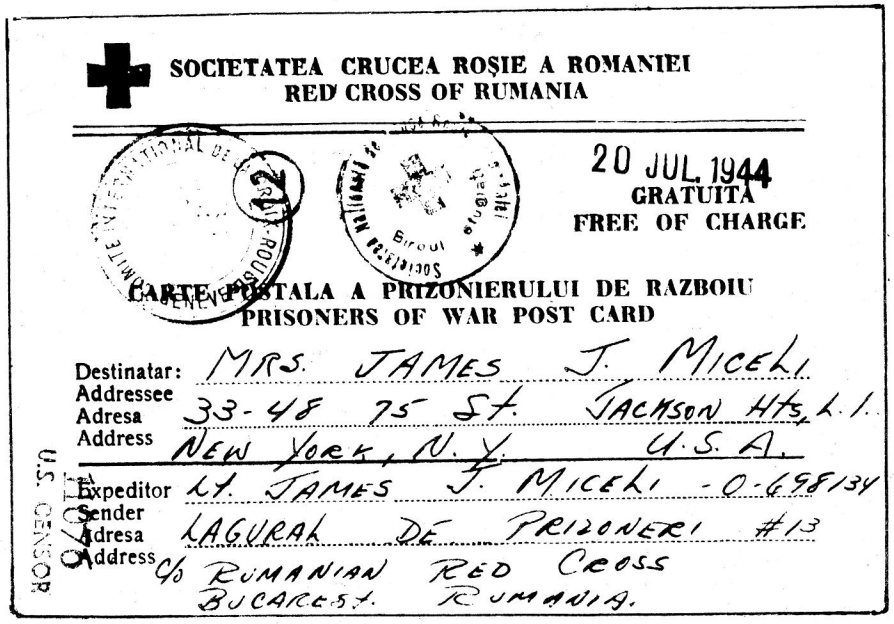
If form cards or lettersheets were not available, use of ordinary paper and envelopes were tolerated. We show such an envelope (cover) dated Aug. 18, 1944. It measures 127 by 177 mm. and bears the same type of Romanian Red Cross marking as above, a small, black circular handstamp of the numeral "19" as the U.S. marking and a censor tape sealing the envelope. There is no International Red Cross handstamp.

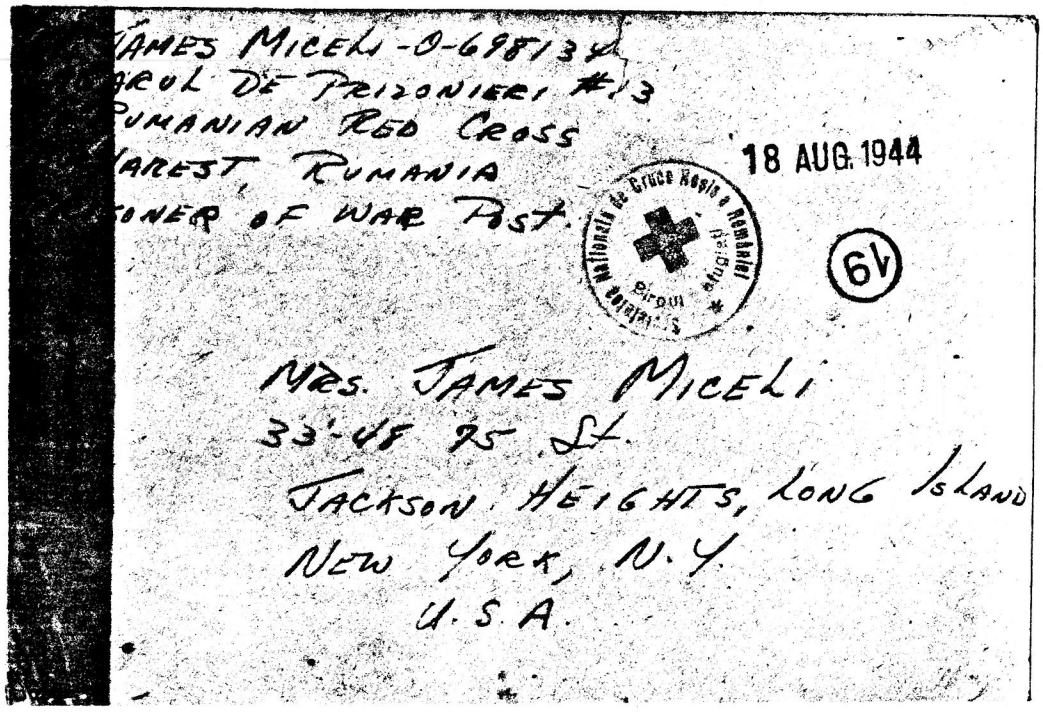
No special stamps for the use on P.O.W. mail, showing its free franking privileges, were prepared. As stated in "Romanian Postal Tax Stamps of 1943" (Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 2/1981) such stamps were created in 1946, when Romania held no more P.O.W.s.

Completed cards and letters were handed by the prisoner to the guards. They then passed on to the office in charge of censorship and mail. After censorship, the national Red Cross Society transmitted all P.O.W. sent correspondence by passing such mail on to the International Red Cross Society (in Geneva, Switzerland), to be forwarded eventually, through regular postal services to the addressees. Mail addressed to the P.O.W.s took the reverse route. Each organization placed an appropriate marking on mail going through its hands, as can be seen on the accompanying illustrations. At least as far as Camp No. 13 is concerned, no provision existed for intra- or inter-compound postal communications, the guards or the doctors providing the only possibility for passing on such messages on an informal basis.

Countries subscribing to the Geneva Convention were required to provide detailed information to the International Red Cross concerning P.O.W. camp locations, the numbers, nationalities, military statuses and ranks of prisoners, etc. While this organization's Geneva archives should be a treasure house of information, Miceli's description, below, of life in Camp No. 13 is more or less typical of that in other such Romanian P.O.W. camps.

Camp No. 13 being basically for officers, unlike others for enlisted men, had no labor details. The prisoners tried to keep in good physical and mental shape.





They formed sports and education committees. Besides a basketball group, educational groups taught bridge and languages, etc.

Although an escape committee was formed, Miceli states he does not know of anybody succeeding. Almost everyone tried at least once. Most headed for Jugoslavia. The camp's location, in the center of the capital city and far from any friendly frontiers, made such efforts unpromising. Furthermore, capture usually meant beatings by the guards and a period in solitary confinement.

Food shortages posed the biggest problem. A typical breakfast consisted of a slice of bread with some hot water. Lunch would usually be limited to bread and cheese. The dinner feast might offer fish soup - with only the fish head in it - or cabbage soup. And, on Sundays, there was even less to eat.

While there were no attemps at indoctrination, every once in a while, the Nazis would interrogate everyone. Prisoners faced no religious discrimination, being allowed to hold their own services. A Romanian priest was usually also in attendance. The camp commandant, a lieutenant-colonel, ran the camp somewhat loosely but was rather meticulous about being saluted and accorded the respect due his rank.

The Romanian people with whom the P.O.W.s came into contact generally had hostile attitudes. At best they were indifferent. One notable exception was Princess Catherina Caradja, a relative of the king's family. The princess ran an orphanage on her estate, about 100 miles away. A regular visitor, on each trip she would bring fruit, corn, pastries, basketballs, radios, games and adventure books.

We ask our readers to submit any other information on this subject. Clear photocopies of cards, letters, parcel wrappings, or other postal forms and labels used by the P.O.W.s would be especially helpful. As further information becomes available we will update this article.

AN INTERESTING AEROPHILATELIC COVER

George Pataki

We illustrate here the reverse side of a registered, air mail cover, sent on May 21, 1927, from Bucharest to Vienna, Austria. It is franked with eight 1 Leu, King Ferdinand stamps of 1920 (Scott #269) and nine 2 Lei stamps of the same issue (Scott #271), for a total postage of 26 Lei. The cover's front side displays the address, a registration marking with handwritten number "253" and the same "BUCURESTI PAR AVION 21 MAI 1927" double oval postmark as the stamps on the back are obliterated by.

While this represents an early flown cover, what makes it more interesting is the date flown: May 21, 1927. Charles A. Lindbergh, left Roosevelt Field, Long Island, N.Y., at 7:52 AM on May 20, 1927, in his single-engine monoplane "Spirit of St. Louis". After a flight of 33 hours and 32 minutes, thus on May 21, 1927 he landed at Le Bourget airport, near Paris, France. That date thus marks the completion of the first transatlantic solo flight and it is a rare coincidence to also find it on a Romanian flown cover.

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

A ROMANIAN POSTAL DOCUMENT FOUND IN FRANCE

Dr. L.N. Cristea, Tengstrasse 20, apt. 304, 8000 Munich 40, West Germany.

Thirty years ago, while doing research in the state archives as well as private ones in Paris, France, Mr. Alexandru Ciorănescu (now a professor at the Santa Cruz de Teneriffe University) came across a small off-white 130 by 79 mm. card showing a strip of three sketches. In red, blue and yellow colored ink (respectively, from left to right), they portray Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza of the United Romanian Principalities, and bear denominations of 20, 5 and 2 Par. Each measures 24 by 19 mm. The card bears the manuscript text:

"Model alâturat la referatul Dlui
Ministru din Intru cu Nr.
. . . . .sketches. . . . .
către Consiliul de Ministri"
(Sketch annexed to the report of
Minister of Home Affairs, (under) No.
. . . . .sketches. . . . .
for the council of Ministers)

In the card's lower left corner, about half of a red wax seal appears reading: "(Adm) INISTRATIA GENERALA A TELE (grafului). Furthermore, the back of the card displays traces of red sealing wax on its four corners, showing that this card had at one time been affixed to some other item. Undoubtedly, the drawings were part of a document submitted to the Government for discussion by and approval of the Postmaster General.

Prof. Ciorănescu found this document among papers concerning the period of Union of the two Romanian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. He estimates that the drawings date back to the 1863-64 period. Many years ago, research students of Romania's Postal History established that a drawing was missing from postal authority files in Bucharest. They assumed, quite rightly, that it must have been a sketch of the suggested new stamps, the first to portray Prince Cuza. It was also known that the Romanian government had decided to get these stamps printed abroad. The Romanian diplomatic mission in Paris was entrusted with the necessary inquiries. It is very likely that these sketches were sent from Bucharest to Paris to illustrate what the Romanian authorities expected.

The drawings were obviously prepared by a non-Romanian. The inscription "POSTA ROMANE" should have read "POSTA ROMANA" (as is made clear by the correction in ink). A second indication of the artist's foreign origins is the spelling "Doa" and "Doa-deci" instead of "Doua" and "Doua-deci". The latter orthographic errors were left uncorrected. The "POSTA ROMANA" inscription constituted a significant public challenge to Turkey (Ottoman Empire), being akin to an official declaration of sovereignty by the new United Romanian Principalities.

Val. Tebeica's "The First Romanian Postage Stamps, 1858-1865" (Editura Meridiane, Bucharest, 1962) gives some details about the Paris negotiations. Obviously, they took too long and delayed Romania's postal requirements. The Bucharest postal authorities thus decided to order the stamps at home. The Postmaster General, Cezar Librecht, got in touch with the Wonneberg Lithographic firm, while the Ministry of Finance, under Steege, placed an order with the firm of Socec & Co. Wonneberg delivered first. When Librecht was about to place these stamps in circulation, the Minister of Finance threatened a governmental crisis should the Socec stamps not be accepted. The clash between the Postmaster General and the Finance Minister was solved to Mr. Steege's satisfaction. Thus Socec's issue was put into use. Wonneberg's issue remained in the care of the postal authorities and has ever been known as the "unissued Cuza stamps". The issued stamps, from Socec & Co., came into use on January 21st, 1865. They remained valid until August 1966, six months after Cuza's abdication, and three months after Prince Carol's assumption of power. The Cuza stamps were distributed outside of Bucharest between January 30 and December 22, 1865. A detailed study of this distribution by K. Dragomir, was published in "Filatelia", No. 8/1980.

Comparing the drawings with the issued Cuza stamps, we note that the Socec stamps reproduce all of the sketches' main features:

a) The head of the Prince is enclosed by an oval, and faces right.

b) The denominations are placed in all four corners.

c) The inscriptions read:
POSTA (vertically at left);
ROMANA (vertically at right);
the value in letters (on top);
FRANCO (below).

These are some obvious differences:

1) The portrait background is not lined, but is solid colored;

2) The spandrels between the oval and the internal frame lines display vertical background lines, instead of being cross-hatched.

3) The horizontal and vertical outer cartouches show an irregular background on the 2 Par., a regular rhombic one on the 5 and 20 Par.

4) "ROMANA" reads upward, not downward.

There is no point in comparing the sketches with the unissued stamps. Wonneberg's design utilized another concept. Some similarity with the Dulos Paris project, of the "Maison Aumoitte-Stern" essays, can be noted. These essays reached Bucharest in February 1866, about the same time as Cuza's forced abdication. However, the colors for the sketches (red, blue and yellow orange) were also used on both the issued and unissued stamps.

Which artist drew the sketches? For the time being, I am inclined to speculate that some person within Socec & Co. prepared them. This firm's main lithographer, Mr. Sander, a foreign craftsman, was later associated with printing the issued stamps. Attributing the drawings to him would also explain the slight, but revealing orthographical mistakes mentioned above. Another argument in favor of an artist from Socec & Co. is the preference the Ministry of Finance gave to this firm. Although Librecht's first letter to this Ministry made the point that the Prince's effigy was more flattering on the Wonneberg designs, this agency went ahead and awarded the contract to Socec.

Prof. Ciorănescu has thus discovered the missing document from the postal archives, which the Government had sent to Paris in order to secure the printing of the first "POSTA-ROMANA" stamps. This is the oldest drawing we know of any Romanian postage stamp. Eduardo Cohen, who authored, "Contributions a l'Etude des Essais des Timbres-Poste de Roumanie" (Lisbon, Portugal, 1945), did not know of these drawings. As they are the oldest sketches extant, we can be sure they would have been the first to be listed in his remarkable work had he known of their existence.

Review

The Post Rider-Yamshchik

Issue No. 10 (May 1982) of this research bulletin of The Canadian Society of Russian Philately (P.O. Box 5722 Station "A," Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P2) contains, among its many other interesting articles, two excellent studies which should be of great interest to Romanian specialists.

"Transnistria Under the Roumanian Administration," by C.M. Trevers, 23½ pages long, gives a great deal of information regarding the Romanian posts in Transnistria, the use of the Transnistria stamps, as well as the postmarks used in conjunction with them. The article is richly illustrated with both covers and markings.

"A Look at Northern Bukovina Postal History," by Dr. Robert Bell and Andrew Cronin (the editor of this publication), 18½ pages long, contains five well documented chapters:

I. The Austrian Administration Until the End of 1918.

II. The First Romanian Administration: 1919-June 22, 1940.

III. The First Soviet Administration: June 22, 1940-July 5, 1941.

IV. The Second Romanian Administration: July 5, 1941-March 1944.

V. The Current Soviet Administration: March 1944 to Date.

This study illustrates many covers, postcards, stamps and postmarks and shows large, detailed maps. It presents a useful list of localities with their Austrian, Romanian and Ukranian names.

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Canceled-to-order items

REPRINTED FROM LINN'S STAMP NEWS MARCH 7, 1983

QUESTION: I've encountered a number of foreign stamps that appear to be mint (fully gummed), but they have cancel marks in the corners. Are these stamps mint, used, precanceled or what? How does their value compare with more typical mint or used copies?

ANSWER: The stamp you describe is a typical CTO (canceled-to-order) stamp.

CTOs are mint stamps that are imprinted with simulated postmarks (or portions thereof) by the issuing authorities to prevent postal use. They can then be offered to collectors in "mint" condition at considerable discounts from face value.

They may be sold by the governments themselves, or through their normal philatelic agents. Different countries may handle CTO sales in different manners, but their agencies should know the score.

Since they are no longer valid for postage, CTOs are not mint. In fact, most are worth less than genuinely used copies.

The illustrated Romanian stamp is but one example, typical of CTOs from various places (especially Eastern Europe). The note in Scott's catalog about "Canceled to Order" reads as follows in the Romanian listing (and similarly in other country listings):

"Canceled sets of new issues have long been sold by the government. Prices in the second ('used') column are for these canceled-to-order stamps. Postally used copies are worth more."

The CTO cancellation is often printed in conjunction with the actual stamp-printing operation, even on the same presses. Such issues

Canceled-to-order (CTO) stamps are otherwise mint copies that have been imprinted with a simulated portion of a postmark to render them postally invalid and permit their sale at discount prices to the stamp trade, like this example from Romania (note marking in upper left corner).

are never intended to serve as postage; they are produced solely for sale to collectors.

Their philatelic and postal history value is questionable, although they are relatively inexpensive and inoffensive for beginners and collectors with limited budgets. Besides, their condition is often hard to match among postally used copies.

Collectors should be aware of the existence of CTOs, and their intended audience. However, some stamps are readily available only as CTOs, so they should not be condemned unconditionally.

Defrauding the Posts

The August 1982 issue of "Scott's Monthly Stamp Journal," contains a "Letter to the Editor" which should be of interest to Romania collectors. Its writer reports that his pen-pal in Romania sometimes franks his letters with stamps cut in half and subsequently rejoined, and asks if anybody has any information regarding this situation. The publication's editor expresses his opinion that the pen-pal found a novel way (at least for Romania) to defraud the postal authorities. It seems that this Romanian pen-pal has bought cancelled-to-order (C.T.O.) postage stamps, each neatly cancelled on one of corner only, has then cut each exactly in half and has ultimately affixed the uncancelled pairs of halves on covers, using them for postage.

C.T.O. Romanian stamps can be bought in Romania at about 10-20% of their face value, and probably less for definitives. By cutting them vertically or horizontally, eliminating the obliterated halves, thus creating a whole "mint" stamp out of two C.T.O. ones, for about 20-40% of its value, the pen-pal is greatly reducing his franking expenses, meanwhile cheating the postal authorities of their revenues.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

The "Ziaristi 1920 Ujságirók" Overprints

Dr. Ion Ilea, Str. Petuniei No. 5, bl. 5. apt. 17, 3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Philatelic events, as described by various postal historians and catalogue editors, are sometimes presented in very different lights. One example of this can be found in the attitudes regarding the 1920 overprinting, in Cluj-Napoca, of Ferdinand stamps with a text reading "Ziaristi 1920 Ujságirók." Scott and Yvert do not list them. Michel and Zumstein do present them, but mention that they were approved by the heads of the "Posts, Telegraph & Telephone" (P.T.T.) Department of Transylvania but that the national P.T.T. Directorate, in Bucharest, refused to declare them official. Lipsia describes them as a private issue. The Romanian Philatelic Catalogue (issued in Oradea, Romania in 1946, 1947 & 1948), edited by Francis Konrád, states that they were "Issued in Cluj on the occasion of the Congress of Transylvanian Newsmen with the approval of the regional council. The issue was later declared unofficial by the Ministry of Posts in Bucharest because the overprint was in two languages, Romanian and Hungarian." Before accepting any of these statements at its face value, philatelists would do well to delve into the history and official documentation behind this issue, as presented below. Based on this information, they may then form their own opinions as to whether or not these stamps are legitimate and/or acceptable according to their own personal standards.

The "Newsmen's Central Association of Transylvania and Banat" arranged a congress to take place in Cluj during the summer of 1920 for the purpose of discussing professional matters. The organization asked the General Directorate of Posts (Postmaster General's Office, in Bucharest) for the issuance of a set of stamps to commemorate the event. By Decree No. 1,134 of Aug. 16, 1920, this office approved the request with some change. It ordered the Cluj Regional Directorate to take the following measures:

1. The Cluj post office treasury was to release to the Newsmen's Association a number of definitive stamps.

2. A temporary post office was to be provided on the premises where the convention was to be held. The Cluj post office would supply it with 2 or 3 mailmen to collect, cancel and deliver the mail, as well as a supervisor to handle registered mail.

3. The stamps the Association bought would be allowed to be overprinted "Ziaristi 1920 Ujságirók" as long as their denominations were not altered.

4. The overprinted stamp were to be used only on domestic mail and only on Aug. 21-22, 1920, after which they would be considered void.

5. Such stamps were to be obliterated only by the cancelling device of the Cluj I post office.

The Cluj Regional Directorate' memorandum No. 34,420 of Aug. 17, 1920, relayed the central body's approval to the Newsmen's Association. Nine denominations of the Jan. 1920 (large effigy) Ferdinand definitives, in sheets fo 100 (10 x 10), were supplied to be overprinted. The table below sets forth the denominations overprinted, catalogue numbers assigned by the major catalogues to the unoverprinted stamps, as well as the stamp, paper and overprint colors.

Overprint with serifed letters

The overprinting was done in great haste, as there were only a few days between the receipt of permission to proceed and the date of the congress opening. Inspector Constantin Jurcan, of the Cluj Regional Directorate of Posts, supervised the process in the printing shop of the Newsmen's Association in Cluj-Napoca. The setting of the overprint was less than perfect due to the rush. As various typefaces were pressed into use, three types of overprint resulted.

I. "Ziaristi" about 8mm. long in antique (serifed) letters (rows 1, 2, and 3);

II. "Ziaristi" about 7mm. long in block (san serif) letters (rows 4 and 5);

III. "Ziaristi" about 7mm. long in antique (serifed) letters (rows 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10).

Furthermore, as the lettertype utilized was of Hungarian manufacture, no Romanian letter "ş" (with a cedilla below) was available. Counterfeits of this overprint, show a cedilla beneath the "ş" in "Ziariştі" while originals do not. The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974, illustrates an enlarged counterfeit overprint, with the letter "ş" in "Ziariştі," instead of the genuine overprint.

Overprint with sans serif letters

Ziariştі
1920
Ujságirók

Counterfeit overprint with "ş" in "Ziariştі"

Denomination	*Scott*	*Michel*	*Zumstein*	*Stamp*	*Paper*	*Overprint*
1 ban	248	251	366	black	grayish	gold*
5 bani	249	252	367	yellow green	grayish	black**
10 bani	250	253	368	rose	grayish	black**
15 bani	251	254	369	red brown	grayish	black
25 bani	252	255	370	deep blue	white	red
40 bani	254	257	371	gray brown	grayish or white	gold*
50 bani	255	258	372	red orange	white	black
1 leu	256	259	373	gray brown	white	black
2 lei	258	261	374	orange	white	black**

*Black overprints are known; their authenticity is subject to doubt.

**Inverted overprints are known (probably 100 of each); some philatelists claim they are counterfeits, while others consider them genuine but admit that these "errors" were probably deliberately made.

Available data on the number of overprinted stamps is contradictory. "Buletin P.T.T." No. 10/1921 gives the number of overprinted sheets of 100 in ascending order of denomination as 501; 101; 11;101; 11; 101; 101; 11; 11. Readers should note that each figure ends with the numeral "1" and will probably question why such odd number would have been chosen for every denomination. Perhaps the explanation lies in that one sheet of each value was meant to go to some special destination (such as a high ranking official or the Ministry of Posts). However, even allowing a substraction of 100 stamps (1 sheet) for each, the resultant respective number of stamps still comes to 50,000; 10,000; 1,000; 10,000; 1,000; 10,000; 10,000; 1,000 and 1,000. With the exception of the 25 bani value, all of these are higher (some markedly so) than Konrad's respective figures of 2,500; 2,500; 900; 2,500; 1,000; 2,500; 1,500; 900; and 900. Konrád recently stated that his figures were obtained from a stamp dealer. This dealer may have had an ulterior motive on lowering the figures of stamps available, as this would tend to raise their selling prices. On the other hand, it is possible that the offical date represents the actual number of overprinted stamps, while the lower figures show the quantities reaching the temporary post office, with the differences having "disappeared" somewhere in the shuffle. The discrepancies cannot be explained away by assuming that the higher figures represent amounts produced, and the lower ones amounts sold, as we must assume that the issue was sold out. At that time, the custom was to officially destroy unsold remainders and record this act in official documents. As the documents which normally would have recorded the destruction (had it taken place) make no mention of such a process, we have to assume that it never took place and that none of the stamps went unsold.

The congress, held in the Cluj Hungarian Theater, included a specially built indoor booth. This structure served as the temporary post office and was marked "Localul Postei Ziaristilor" (Newsmens Post Hall). There, overprinted stamps were sold over the counter and/or affixed by the clerks on letters or cards presented for mailing, As per instructions, the stamps were obliterated with a "CLUJ I" canceller. The mails were then sorted and sent to their destinations. As these stamps were valid only on Aug. 21 and 22, 1920, any displaying postmarks later than Aug. 22, 1920 must be considered "favor cancelled." The Lepage Book and Stationery Co. is known to have sold originals on covers, but cancelled "KOLOZSVAR H 1 H," not "CLUJ I," dated "29 AUG. 920," rather "21 (or 22) AUG. 920"—thus favor cancelled.

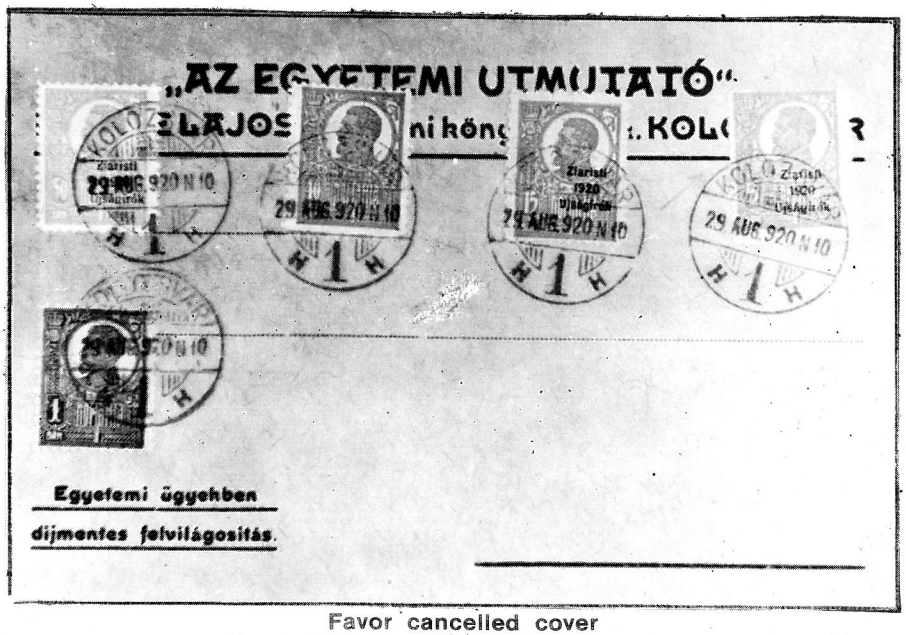
Inverted overprints

Aug. 21, 1920 marked the official visits to the postal booth by Otto Á'mon, Newsmen's Union treasurer, and Nicolae Schreiber, a notary public. The notary recorded the number of overprinted stamps placed on sale as well as the names of the postal clerks servicing this facility. Furthermore, he attested that this office was processing mails franked with the overprinted stamps.

After the special post office closed the next day, the postal clerks, Inspector Jurcan and Otto Á'mon were invited to the notary's office. Also present were Ladislau Groisz and Emeric Szegö, representing the Newsman's Union, Iulius Kovács who was in charge of the shop which did the overprinting, and Lajos Rohonczy and Andrei Benedek, representing the philatelists. At this meeting, the conditions under which the "Newsmen's Posts" was operated were officially delineated, and recorded by the notary. On Aug. 29, 1920, he compiled a statement which was signed, notarized and registered (No. 1,084/1920), saying:

"The notary public has personally observed the handling of ordinary as well as registered mail, deposited by the public at the Newsmen's post office which was established on Aug. 21, 1920, and that such mail was franked with overprinted Romanian stamps. It is officially certified that the Newsmen's postal booth was a post office, and that letters bearing stamps overprinted "Ziaristi 1920 Ujságirók" were cancelled with the Cluj post office's official canceller. Furthermore, the number of overprinted stamps has been recorded, as well as the fact that Cluj Postal Directorate Decree No. 34,420/1920 and Postal Comptroller's Commission Decree No. 1,257/1920 authorized the overprinting. After completing the overprinting, the printing plate used was dismantled." (Had unsold remainders existed, their fate would have had to have been mentioned in this document).

At the time of their issuance, no specimens or samples of these stamps were sent to Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.) headquarters in Berne, Switzerland. (It is doubtful that the U.P.U. would have been interested in such stamps, in any case. The U.P.U. calls for specimens to supply other members states with copies of a country's stamps in order that new issues be recognized as valid when they arrive from abroad. The overprints in question, valid only for internal use in the country of issue, would thus be outside the U.P.U. domain). In July 1921, Otto Amon sent a memorandum to the Brasov Postal Directorate, asking that a set be sent to the U.P.U. in order to gain its official recognition of the issue. Not only did he enclose a mint set, but also postally used covers, as well as legal papers supporting his position from both the Cluj Regional Postal Directorate and the Postal Unification Commission (which had been created to promote uniformity of postal rules in territories acquired by Romania after World War I with those regulations governing the rest of the country. Based in Bucharest, it consisted of representatives of the General and Regional Postal Directorates). Furthermore, Á'mon in-



Favor cancelled cover

cluded the notarized document describing the overprinting and sale of this set.

The Braşov Directorate sent the petition and its accompanying enclosures on the Postmaster General's Office, in Bucharest. In turn, the material was forwarded to the Solicitor's Department Research Office. Here, it was rejected on July 4, 1921 (Notification No. 96). The Postmaster General Consultative Commission rejected a subsequent appeal on July 14, 1921, publishing this decision in "Buletin P.T.T." No. 10/1921 (pp. 71-73). It has already been mentioned that according to F. Konrád, there was an objection to the Hungarian language being overprinted on Romanian stamps. The official objection to this set was that it was speculative, yielding profits to private parties. It should be emphasized here, once more, that the objections raised and the repudiation of the set came well after the "fait accompli" of their being produced, issued, sold and used on mails, all under postal supervision.

The documents presented above clearly show the legitimate birth of the set. While extraneous considerations, such as its local production and sale as well as its speculative nature, do tend to make some philatelists wary of including it in their collections, nevertheless the set should not be denied catalogue recognition. Of course, catalogue listings should also include the various footnotes, conform to the available facts, in order that collectors be able to decide for themselves.

An Item of Philatelic History

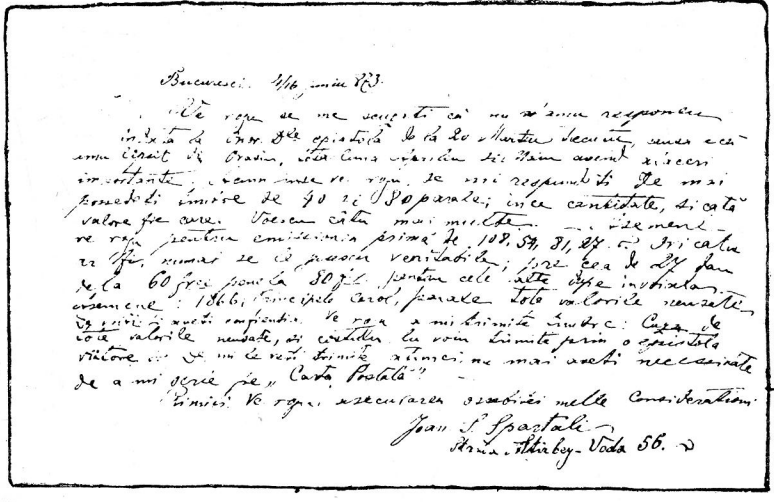
Paul C. Laptev, 17 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3JD, England.

Collectors of Romanian classics will be interested in the conclusions that can be drawn from the message on the 1873 card of which I submit reproductions in reduced size. It is the message half of a double card (H & G #2, CMPR #CR2) of the early issue, exhibiting the break in the coat-of-arms and the circula, decat, cat, etc. punctuation. It shows a doubly struck circular marking of the "thimble" type, with the year indicated by its last digit only. Addressed to Mr. I. Iacobescu, an employee ("oficiant") at the Brăila post office, it is dated Bucharest 4/16 June, 1873. A translation of its text reads: "Please excuse the delay in replying to your note of March 20th last, the reason being my absence on important business during all of April and May. Now, however, I ask you to let me know if you still have 40 and 80 parale stamps; in what quantities, and at what price each. I want as many as possible. Also I would ask you for 108, 54, 81 and 27 stamps of the first issue. As many as you have, as long as I find them to be genuine; for the 27 parale I pay 60 to 80 francs. For the others by agreement. Likewise: 1866 Prince Carol, parale, all denominations mint. If you wish, and have confidence, please send me Cuza stamps of all denominations mint and I can send payment in a future letter. If you do so, you no longer need to answer on the "post card". Please accept the assurance of my distinct consideration. Ioan S. Spartali, Str. Ştirbey-Vodă 56."

Less than 15 years after the issuance of the Moldavian stamps (July 15, 1858 in Jassy only), we have evidence not only of significant activity in stamps collecting and dealing, but also of the existence of counterfeits. One could speculate about the privileges enjoyed by a Moldavian postal employee who purchased stock of the first issue, presumably at face value! It is also interesting to note the apparent disregard for used copies of the Cuza and first Prince Carol issues.

The subject of then current pricing requires further analysis. We do have the stated offer of 60 to 80 francs for copies of the 27 parale, Romania's no.1, of international fame. The term "franc" had been in use for many years (and still is to this day) as a slang French import. As such it signifies the unit of currency. However, in 1867 parity between the French franc and the newly introduced gold standard "LEU" became a fact. The decree introducing the first Romanian monetary system, a measure which until then had been opposed by the Turks, called for a bimetal standard (gold and silver), modelled after that of the Latin Union (France, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland). It set the value of the national unit "LEU", at exactly 1/20th of the French "Napoleon", a 20 franc gold coin. The following year, a Romanian 20 lei gold coin was minted in Bucharest. It weighed precisely the same 6.452 grams and likewise consisted of the same 900 parts per 1,000 gold. In 1873, therefore, prices were interchangably quoted in lei or francs. While I am not in the position to ascertain the exact purchasing power of the leu at the time, a few bench marks follow:

-dinner for one at Capşa's (the best restaurant in Bucharest) cost 5 lei;
-an imported men's hat of the best quality cost between 5 and 10 lei;
-the building of a log-raft on the Bistriţa river, complete with the fashioning and assembly of rudder (price of materials not included) was quoted at 40 to 50 lei. I have only included the last example for its quaint aspect. The other two, however, may allow readers to establish a price update for the 27 parale-a reasonable investment, it would seem.

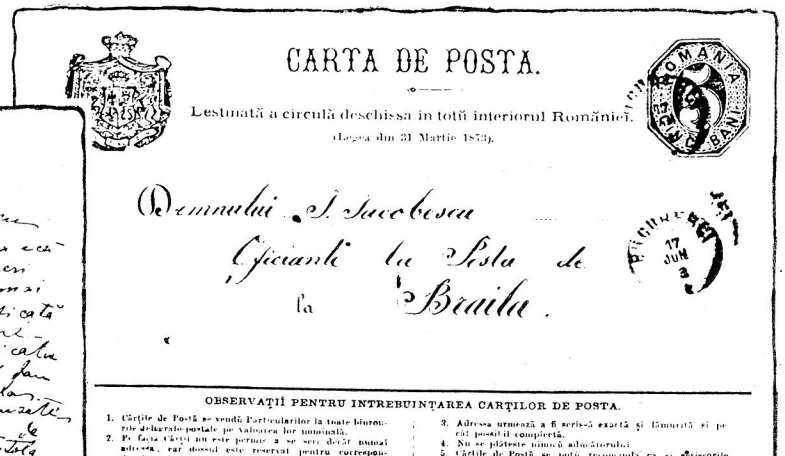


Bucuresci 4/16 mai 873.

Vă rog să mă scuzaţi că nu v'am răspuns indată la prea stima epistolă de la 20 Martie decurs, care am primit'o de Oradia, dar causa absenţei mele din Bucuresci fiind de mai importante, cum sunt cele ale regulării de mai înainte, amânate până la 40 şi 80 parale; în ce cantitate, şi cată valoare fie care. Voiesc câte mai multe. — Vă rog, pentru emisiunea primă de 108, 54, 81, 27 c. Pe cât va fi, numai să fie de o pasiune veritabilă; pre fie-care de 27 parale la 60 şi 80 fr. pentru cele alte dupe înţelegere. Asemenea: 1866, Principele Carol, parale toate valorile neuzate. Vă rog a mi trimite şi o epistolă de cele valorile neuzate, şi credit la voi trimite prin o epistolă viitore. Şi de nu le veţi trimite atunci nu mai aveţi necesitate de a mi respunde pe „Carta Postală".

Trimiţi Vă rog, executarea acestei mele Consideration.

Joan S. Spartali
Stirbey-Voda 56.



CARTA DE POSTA.

Lestimată a circulă deschisă in totă interiorul României.

(Legea din 31 Martie 1873).

Domnului I. Iacobescu

Oficiant la Posta de

la Braila.

OBSERVAŢII PENTRU INTREBUINŢAREA CARŢILOR DE POSTA.

1. Cărţile de Poştă se vendă Particularilor la toate biurourile delegaţiei postale pe valoarea lor nominală.
2. Pe facia Cărţei nu este permis a se scrie decât numai adresa, iar dosul este reservat pentru correspondenţă.
3. Adresa urmează a fi scrisă exactă şi limpede şi pe cât posibil completă.
4. Nu se plăteşte nimic adresatorului.
5. Cărţile de Poştă se potu recomanda ca şi adresele plătindu-se dreptul de înregistrare.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

The "PEARLS" Issue of 1880

Leonard Pascanu Aleea Politehnicii No.6, bl. 3, sc. 2, et. 4, apt. 20, 77213 Bucharest, Romania

The "Pearls" stamps (Scott #73, 74) of July 1880 were issued because the cliches engraved in Paris by Albert Barre in 1873 for the "Paris" and "Bucharest" issues had become worn out. New cliches were engraved for the most frequently used denominations, 15 and 25 bani (Fig. 1). According to the French researcher Georges Brunel, however, these two stamps were issued mainly because the numerals indicating the denominations on the previous issues had been too small, and caused confusion.

Fig. 1

The design, identical for both denominations, shows Prince Carol facing left. A circular frame of 86 pearls surrounds the portrait, hence the name for this issue. The denomination appears in the lower corners. The stamps have a rectangular frame with the frame line being thicker on top and at right than at bottom and on the left. The design measures 18½ by 23¾ mm. However, because of inaccuracies in the perforating process, the overall size of 20 - 22½ by 23¾ - 24½ mm, (from perforation tip to perforation tip) shows wide variations.

Printing and Proofs

The printing, done at the *"Imprimeriile Statului"* (State Printing Plant) in Bucharest, was by typography. The printing plate contained 130 cliches, arranged in 13 horizontal rows of 10 stamps.

For this issue, various printing and color proofs were made, on various kinds of paper, ranging from thin to cardboard. The sheet arrangements, colors and paper types are similar to those of the 1876-1897 *"Paris-Bucuresti I"* issues. Proofs in sheet of 130 (13 rows of 10 stamps) are known. Also minisheets of 12 (block of 10 (2x5) plus one on each side of the block) were produced on various types of paper. Many proofs were overprinted in black or blue diagonally, from top-left to bottom-right, with *"PROJECT"* or *"PROJECT ANULAT"*. Besides the types of proofs described by Eduardo Cohen in *"Contribution a l'Etude des Essais des Timbre-Poste de Roumanie"* (Lisbon, 1945), we illustrate in fig. 2 a type so far unrecorded; printed on thin, silky, colored paper, its overall size is 220 by 69 mm. The upper right shows this proof, the 25 bani denomination, printed in black. I know this type of proof in 17 different colors of paper.

Paper and Colors

The issued stamps were printed on white paper of various thicknesses and features. Until recently, it had been thought that only

Fig. 3

unwatermarked paper was used for this issue. Recently, D. Gheorghian discovered a 15 bani stamp (now in the E. Savoiu collection) with a *"PR"* watermark in the reversed, upright position ("position 2").

The color of the 15 bani is brown, while that of the 25 bani is blue, each in a large variety of nuances and shades. The intensity of the brown varies from pale to dark, while the hues include red brown and rose brown. The blue intensity varies from light to dark and copies with an ultramarine hue are also found.

Perforation

These stamps were line perforated with the same machines as the previous issues were. Various perforations exist: A (13½); B (11½); B1 (11); C (11½x13½) and D (13½x11½). As Don Heller stated in "The 1880 Prince Carol Issue" (Romanian Philatelic Studies., No. 1/1977), these are approximate figures. More accurate measurements using an *"Instanta Perforation Gauge"* show that 11¼ and 13 ⅕ perforations also exist. These small differences were due to the rudimentary perforating machines and procedures as well as possible paper shrinkage. Perforation A (13½) on the 15 bani stamp is extremely rare; most of these stamps with perf. 13½ have been fraudalently re-perforated. Only those used on cover (Fig. 3) should be considered, without any doubt, as genuinely perforated.

The 15 bani is known in pairs, horizontally perforated 11½ or 13½ but vertically imperforate. The 25 bani in known in pairs, vertically perforated 11½ or 13½ but horizontally imperforate. The Kohl catalogue mentions both the 15 and 25 bani stamps existing imperforate and being postally used. In reality, these are proofs which on very rare occasions were postally used, and thus, are extremely scarce and valuable.

Varieties

Both denominations are known with guide lines, seen as narrow lines on the top, bottom, left or right margins of the stamps. Another variety known consists of dots in the medallion. A variety so far unrecorded shows three colored dots among the letters of the word *"BANI"*.

Don Heller, in his article, illustrated two design varieties of the 15 bani, each with doubled lines of the number *"15"*, due to

Fig. 4. Left

Fig. 5 Right

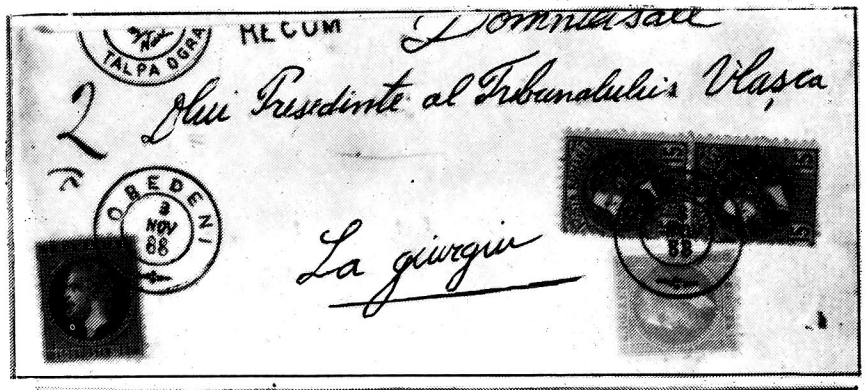


Fig. 6

Fig. 7

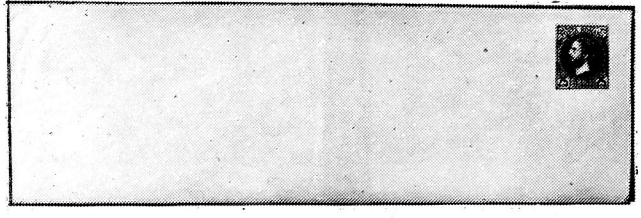


Fig. 2

Fig. 8

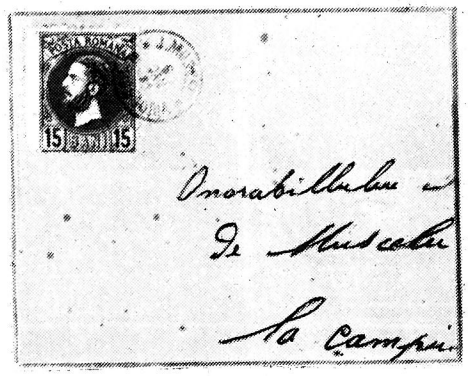


Fig. 9

reentry of the numerals during repairs:

a) the left numeral *"15"* is doubled, the right is normal (Fig. 4),
b) the left numeral *"15"* is normal, the right is doubled (Fig. 5).

Period of Use

The *"Pearls"* stamps were issued in July 1880 and used concomitantly with the *"Bucuresti II"* and *"Vulture"* issues. Fig. 6 shows a cover with mixed franking consisting of *"Bucuresti II"* 5 and 50 bani stamps and a vertical pair of the 15 bani *"Pearls"*. It was written in the village of *"TALPA OGRAZII"*, where the notary's marking was applied; the stamps were obliterated at the rural post office of *"OBEDENI"* on Nov. 3, 1888. Its arrival is attested to by a single circle *"GIURGIU"* marking, dated *"4 NOV 88"*. This cover shows a very late use of both the *"Pearls"* and *"Bucuresti II"* stamps. Figs. 7, 8 and 9 show covers bearing stamps of the *"Pearls"* issue, some obliterated with interesting and rare postal markings.

Considering that not too many of these stamps are around (they are now about 100 years old), their prices should be much higher than those listed in catalogues. On cover they are scarce, and thus expensive.

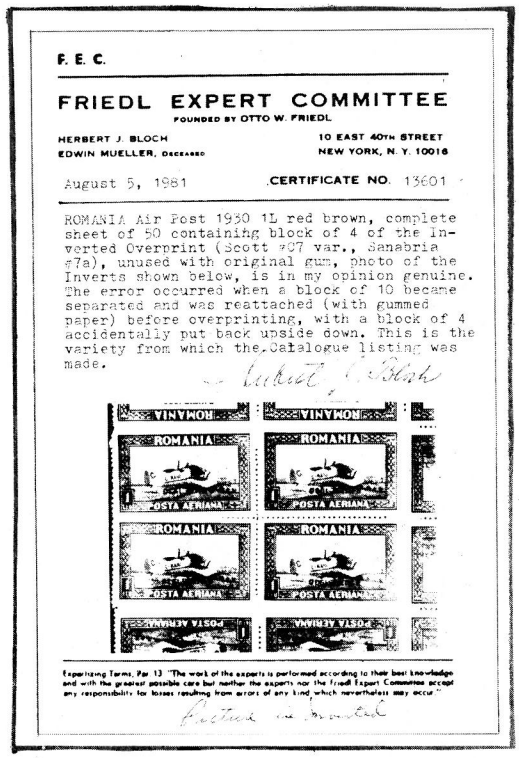
SCARCE AEROPHILATELIC ERRORS

George Pataki

In the Herbert Klein (of Queens, N.Y.) collection, among other interesting items, are two full sheets out of a set of three Romanian airmail stamps. First issued in 1928, these were later overprinted "8 IUNIE 1930" in 1930. The overprinted sets, as the unoverprinted ones, show vertical or horizontal wavy line watermarks. The 1 Leu and 2 Lei sheets in Klein's collection are overprinted and display horizontal wavy line watermarks. Scott lists them as C7 and C8.

What is unusual about these sheets of 50 is that they contain inverted overprints. The 1 Leu bears a block of 4 of the inverted overprint (positions 19, 20, 24 and 25) while the 2 Lei shows a horizontal pair (positions 16 and 17). As Herbert J. Bloch, of the Friedl Expert Committee, states in certificates Nos. 13,601 and 13,602 of Aug. 5, 1981, the errors occurred when a block of 4, and a horizontal pair, respectively, became separated. These were reattached, with gummed paper on their backs, before overprinting. Accidentally, they were put back upside down.

These errors are unlisted by most catalogues, such as Scott, Minkus, Michel, Gibbons, Yvert, Zumstein or the



F. E. C.

FRIEDL EXPERT COMMITTEE

FOUNDED BY OTTO W. FRIEDL

HERBERT J. BLOCH
EDWIN MUELLER, Deceased

10 EAST 40th STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

August 5, 1981 CERTIFICATE NO. 13601

ROMANIA Air Post 1930 1L red brown, complete sheet of 50 containing block of 4 of the inverted Overprint (Scott #27 var., Sanabria #7a), unused with original gum, photo of the Inverts shown below, is in my opinion genuine. The error occurred when a block of 10 became separated and was reattached (with gummed paper) before overprinting, with a block of 4 accidentally put back upside down. This is the variety from which the Catalogue listing was made.

Herbert J. Bloch

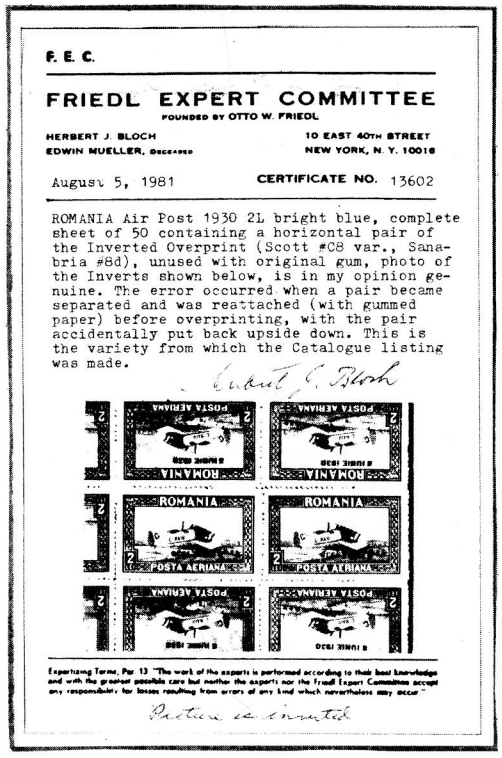
Explaining Terms, Par. 13 "The work of the experts is performed according to their best knowledge and with the greatest possible care but neither the experts nor the Friedl Expert Committee accept any responsibility for losses resulting from errors of any kind which nevertheless may occur."

Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974. However, they are listed in the 1966 edition of Sanabria (a specialized airmail catalogue) as numbers 7a and 8d, and the expertization so identifies them. This catalogue lists the amounts issued. For these errors, the quantities stated are 4 and 2, respectively. Thus, according to Sanabria, Mr. Klein possesses the whole world's supply of these items!

The only other errors known to exist on this set occur on the 2 Lei value. Once again, the major catalogues ignore these while Sanabria does list them as 8a, 8b and 8c. These errors, respectively are:

8a - vertical pair, imperf. between
8b - double overprint
8c - imperforate.

Counterfeit overprints exist on all three denominations.



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10 EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

August 5, 1981 CERTIFICATE NO. 13602

ROMANIA Air Post 1930 2L bright blue, complete sheet of 50 containing a horizontal pair of the Inverted Overprint (Scott #C8 var., Sanabria #8d), unused with original gum, photo of the Inverts shown below, is in my opinion genuine. The error occurred when a pair became separated and was reattached (with gummed paper) before overprinting, with the pair accidentally put back upside down. This is the variety from which the Catalogue listing was made.

Herbert J. Bloch

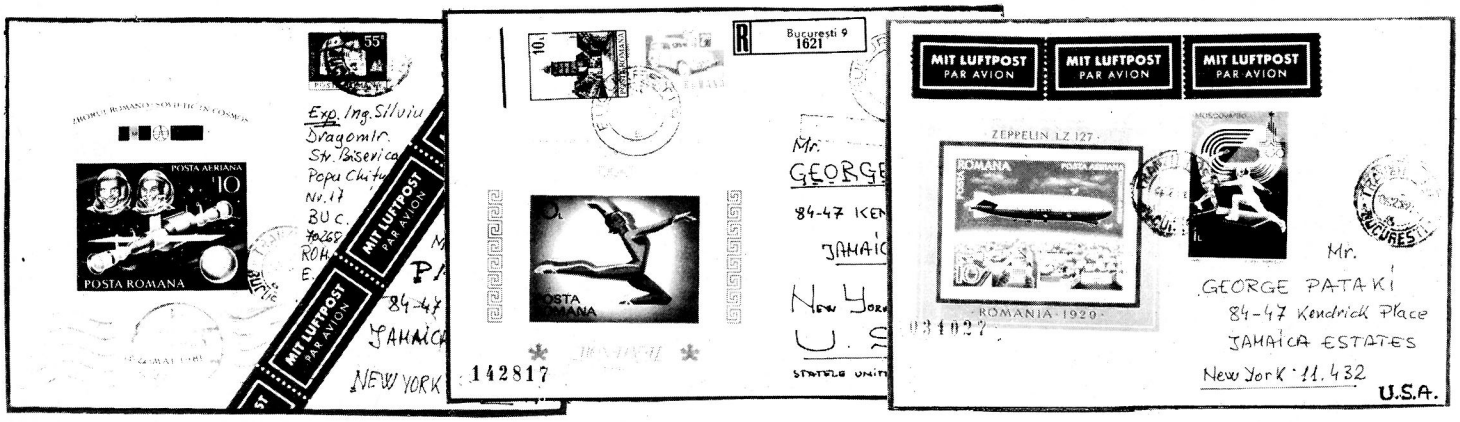
Expertizing Terms, Par 13 "The work of the experts is performed according to their best knowledge and with the greatest possible care but neither the experts nor the Friedl Expert Committee accept any responsibility for losses resulting from errors of any kind which nevertheless may occur."

Picture is inverted

POST-WAR ROMANIAN SOUVENIR SHEETS

George Pataki

The souvenir sheets released by Romania during the post WW II period remain a controversial subject. During the last decade, every year, about 6 to 12 different sheets and sheetlets have been released, perforated and /or imperforate. They are never sold at ordinary post offices. Some are sold in special philatelic stores only to subscribers who qualify by being members of the Philatelists' Association of Romania. Rem'ainders, unsold after varying periods of time, but usually one month, can then be bought freely at their face value. Once a year, the central office for philatelic trade, publishes a new price list showing continuously increasing prices for souvenir sheets and stamps. Other sheets are sold "with restriction", neither at the post offices, nor at the special philatelic stores; only the good offices of the A.F.R. (Philatelists' Association of Romania) will bring them to the hands of its active and worthy members. While some are sold at face value plus a small handling fee, others are priced well above their face value; for example, a 10 Lei sheet is sold for 300 Lei, allegedly its market value. This price is not determinded by supply and demand, but rather by an official estimation. For purposes of distribution of these sheets, a "work and reward" system is used, but more often abused. The number of sheets



one can get through the A.F.R. is determined by the estimated amount of voluntary activity one has done on its behalf. Frequently, this makes voluntary work for A.F.R. a very well rewarded position.

What upsets Romanian collectors, is that many of the scarcer souvenir sheets, such as the imperforates issued in smaller quantities, are first sold for hard currency to western dealers and that only after time, can those left over be sold on the domestic market. Thus a collector in Romania cannot buy some issues of his own country at face value and in desired quantities.

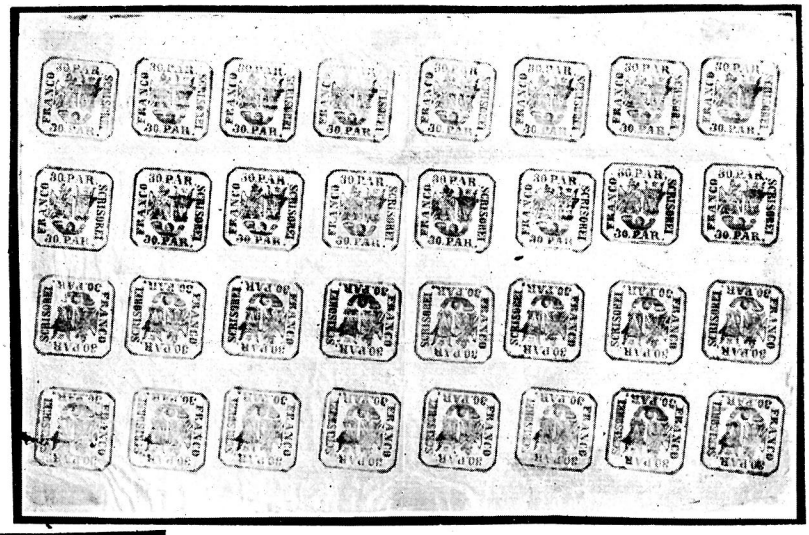
The more common sheets, sold at their face value or not very much above it are sometimes used as postage, by philatelists on their covers sent to other philatelists. Those with restricted issuance conditions which are sold at prices much higher than their face value, can likewise be used for postage; but financially this is impractical.

A question, put to A.F.R. officials in Bucharest, but left unanswered, is why some Romanian post offices, in various cities, at times cross out the serial numbers some sheets display, thus lowering their philatelic value.

The facts we have herein presented are as known to us first hand. The reader can make up his own mind as to whether he wants to consider these souvenir sheets as legitimate philatelic items or as collectible paper labels with commercial value.

1409

1415



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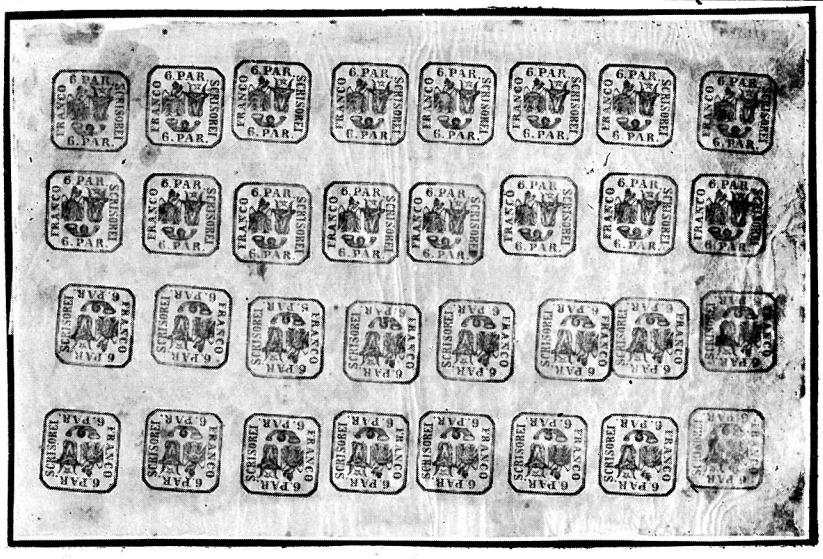

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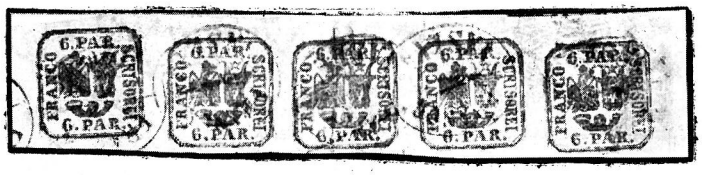


1433

1434

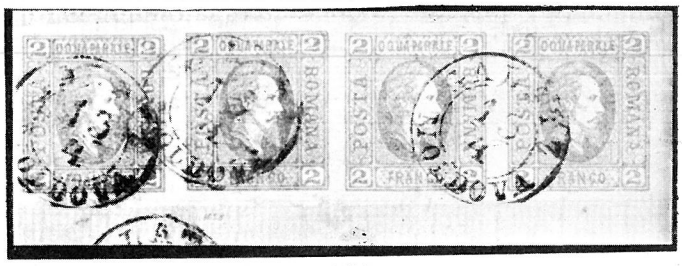
MOLDO-WALLECHIA 1862 1864

Lot			Value S.Frs.
1409	★	*3p. orange, a tête-bêche vertical pair with original gum, creased and partly split in central margin. Ex Caspary. Extremely rare.*	2,400
1410	△	*— An example which is heavily cut into at foot used on part of a newspaper. Ex Harold Wilson, attractive and rare. Also a defective copy with "FRANCO JASSY" on a piece to which it may not belong. With R.P.S. Certificate (1912).*	600
1415	★ B	*30p. blue, a complete mint sheet which includes eight tête-bêche pairs, a vertical fold in centre and one stamp damaged.*	1,800
1428	★ B	*6p., vermilion, a complete mint sheet which includes eight tête-bêche pairs, slight creases.*	1,250
1433	△	*6p. red, a fine strip, the central stamp split by fold, with light black "FRANCO VASLUI" on a piece. Very rare.*	600
1434	⊠	*6p. carmine, a fine strip, one cut into and another with frames clipped in places, clearly cancelled in black on an entire from Jassy.*	475
1435	△	*— A diagonal bisect well tied to large piece of a newspaper. Ex Rothschild and very rare. With Fulpius Certificate (1947).*	1,200
1443	○	*3p. yellow cancelled with a red "CRAIOVA" c.d.s. With Friedl Certificate (1960). Very rare.*	2,700
1447	⊠	*30p. blue, used on entire letter, close at sides.*	110
1448	⊠	*— Two copies tied to entire by "BRAILA" c.d.s.*	180

1435

1447

1448



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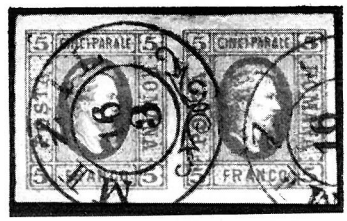

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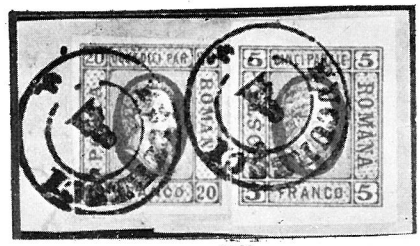


1459

ROUMANIA 1865

1454 _ *2p. orange, a fine strip with "GALATZ" c.d.s. on piece, the first stamp with a tear at lower left corner.* 600

1455 _ — *A similarly cancelled pair, slight thin in side margins but very scarce.* 180

1456 ○ *5p. deep blue, a fine strip with "BOTOSANI" c.d.s., a tiny nick in right margin, part of original paper at back.* 900

1457 ○ — *A very fine pair with "MIZIL" c.d.s.* 475

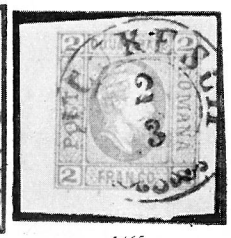
1458 △ — *A superb example tied to piece by "BOTOSANI" c.d.s., ex Caspary.* 425

1459 △ — *Another very fine copy on piece with the 20p. red, a rare combination.* 425

1460 ⊠ — *A fine example tied to cover by a grill cancellation.* 425

1465 ○ *2p. yellow, a very fine and lightly cancelled corner copy, signed by Gilbert.* 180

1460



1465

Lithographed 1866-67

Thick Paper

1472 ○ *2p. A fine example with blue grill cancellation.* 300

1473 ○ — *Another cancelled with c.d.s.* 180

1474 ○ — *A similar lot.* 180

1477 ○ *5p. A fine example with a boxed registration handstamp, an ink stain on margin at back.* 225

1478 ○ — *Another cancelled with "JASSY" c.d.s.* 200

1480 ★ *20p. An example of the scarce variety with dot in Greek border at the upper right corner, tiny thins at top but superb appearance. Also 20p. on thin paper, the same variety in a pair with normal, no gum.* 300

1481 ○ — *The same variety with blue grill cancellation. Also 20p. on thin paper, similarly cancelled examples of the same variety (2), all very fine.* 180

1483 ⊠ — *A very fine example of the same variety used on entire and an equally fine example of the same variety on thin paper used on another entire.* 350

1485 ⊠ — *A slight double impression with "GIURGIU" c.d.s. on entire and the 20p. on thin paper with grill cancellation on another entire.* 180

1486 ⊠ — *A fine copy with light "PLOESTI" c.d.s. on entire and the 20p. on thin paper with "ALEXANDRIA" c.d.s. on another entire.* 180

1488 ⊠ *20p., a fine copy tied by a boxed "RECOMANDAT" to a receipt for a registered letter and 20p. on thin paper similarly cancelled in blue on large part of an entire.* 225

Thin Paper

1492 ○ *5p. black on blue, a fine vertical strip, slightly creased, very rare.* 1,000

1493 ○ — *A fine single, ex Caspary.* 250

1496 ○Ⓑ *20p. A beautiful block (3×2) showing all the types, slight creases and tiny thins but very rare. With R.P.S. Certificate (1963).* 425

1497 ○⊞ — *A beautiful block, lightly cancelled. With R.P.S. Certificate (1959).* 300

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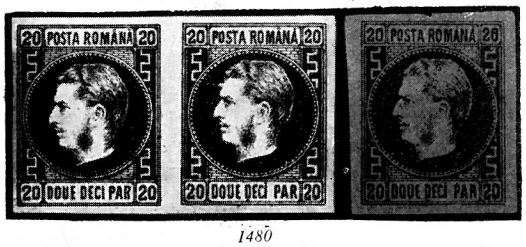

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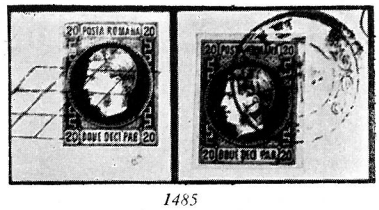

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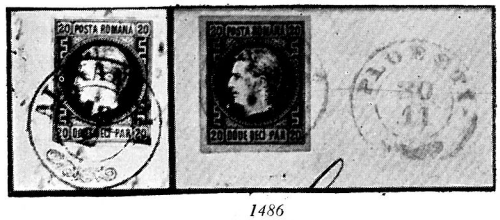

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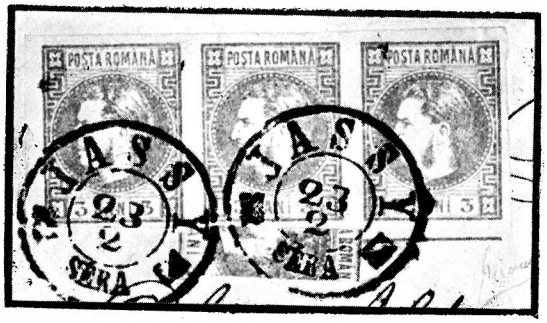

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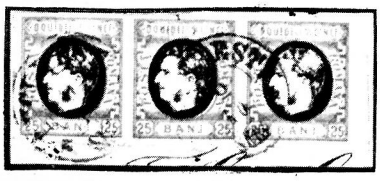

1570

1572

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1582

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1585

1587

First Printing **Lithographed 1868-70**

1509 ○⊞ *18b. rose, a very fine block.* 300

Second Printing

1514 ○⊞ *2b. orange-yellow, a fine block with a single Bucarest c.d.s.* 250

1515 ○⊞ — *A similar block cancelled with blue "IASSI" c.d.s., one stamp with a tiny closed tear at right.* 180

Third Printing 1870

1525 ⊠ *3b. violet, a strip of three and a "BISECT" tied by "JASSY" c.d.s. to an 1872 entire to Bucarest, a very rare 10b. rate. With Friedl Certificate (1947)* 1.500

1526 ⊠ — *A fine pair with blue "CALAFATUL" c.d.s. used on 1871 entire with the 4b. deep blue, the adhesives slightly creased and touched in places but a scarce and attractive 10b. rate.* 120

1531 ○⊞ *18b. salmon, a fine block with blue "BRAILA" c.d.s., close at top and slightly creased but rare.* 300

1532 ⊠ — *A fine example tied to entire by a boxed "FRANCO" and another with grill cancellation on a receipt for a registered letter.* 110

1533 ○⊞ *18b. red, a superb block with a single c.d.s.* 425

Lithographed 1869

White Wove Paper

1542 ○ *5b. deep red-orange, a superb pair, very lightly cancelled in blue.* 300

1543 ⊠ *5b. yellow used on a rather stained entire to Vienna (abnormal usage) and 5b. orange used on a receipt for a parcel.* 180

1551 △ *10b. blue, a BISECT sharing a "GALATZ" c.d.s. with 15b. rose on a piece. Ex Burrus.* 250

1552 ⊠ *10b. deep blue, a BISECT tied by "BOLGRAD" c.d.s. to a receipt for a registered letter. Ex Rothschild.* 600

1561 ○ *15b. vermilion, variety "CINCIS", with light blue c.d.s., a tiny pin hole but very fine.* 140

1570 △ *25b. blue and orange, a fine strip with sheet margin at right used on piece.* 150

1572 ○ — *Examples of major retouches.* 140

1573 ○ — *Examples of major head retouches.* 120

1579 ⊠ — *A fine example used on an entire to Vienna and another used with the 15b. rose-red on an entire to Constantinople.* 200

1582 ★ *50b. red and blue, mint examples of all four types, type 3 being on toned paper from matrix 1 and there is another example of type 2 from matrix 2.* 400

1583 ★ *50b. red and deep blue superb mint, a tiny spot of gum on neck and a few dark specks.* 120

1585 ✶ *50b. red and pale blue, a remarkable example of a "phantom" (double) head variety.* 250

1587 ○ — *An example showing a major frame break and distorted "5" at right, a squeezed transfer, fine and lightly cancelled in blue.* 140

1588 ○ — *Another example of the same transfer flaw cancelled with a blue double lined grill.* 140

1589 ○ *50b. red and deep blue, very fine examples showing head retouches.* 140

1594 ⊠ *50b. red and pale blue tied by "T. SEVERIN" c.d.s. to an entire to Vienna and 50b. red and deep blue tied by a small "BRAILA" c.d.s. to an entire to Genoa.* 180

1595 ⊠ *50b. red and pale blue "phantom" (double) head variety sharing a black c.d.s. with a 25b. blue and orange on a slightly damaged envelope to Paris.* 180

1596 ⊠ *50b. red and deep blue, a fine pair tied by "BRAILA" c.d.s. to an entire to Naples.* 140

Toned wove paper

1600 ○⊞ *50b. red and blue, a very fine block with a central c.d.s., close at foot but very rare.* 900

White Laid Paper

1601 ★ *15b. rose-red type 1 with original gum, slightly creased and soiled but rare. With Balasse Certificate (1963).* 300

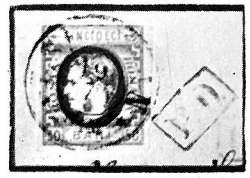
1602 ★ — *Type 2 without gum but in fine condition.* 475

1603 ★ — *Type 3 without gum and creased.* 300

1604 ★ — *Type 4 without gum but in fine condition, ex Caspary.* 550

1588

Ex 1589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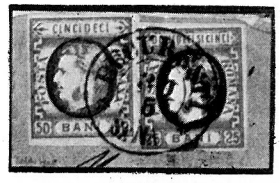
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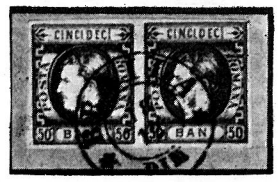
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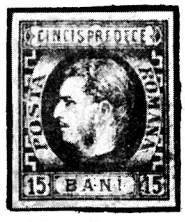

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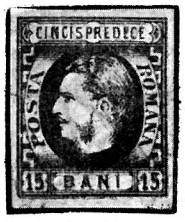

1603

1604

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The TORCATOAREA Semipostals and their Counterfeits

Paul C. Laptev, 17 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3JD, England

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

Very few Romanian 19th and early 20th century issues have been ignored by the counterfeiters. The three semipostal sets of 1906 printed by the Bucharest Stamp Works provide no exception. My aricle published in Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 1/1980, attemped to provide an easy identification guide to the two main fake types of the 1903 "Mail Coach" (Căişori) set, and a similar approach will be used for the "Torcătoarea" stamps (Scott #B1-B4).

The first of the 1906 semipostal sets was issued on January 1/14. Known as "Torcătoarea", it depicts Queen Elisabeth, dressed in the national costume, spinning. The surtax, 7 bani in addition to the 3 bani postage and 10 bani over each other denomination was earmarked for the "Torcatoarea Society", of which the Queen was president. To encourage and facilitate their sale, some were printed on thinner, silky paper and subsequently assembled into booklets containing panes of four each (measuring 72 by 82 mm.). These green covers of these booklets bear the Romanian coat-of-arms and the inscription "Romania Posta". They were offered at post offices for 2.80 lei (face value plus surtax). It has been widely assumed that the 6 to 6½ mm. wide gutters between every second vertical row in the sheet (Fig. 1) were intended to

Fig. 1

facilitate booklet assembly. These gutters however, are also present in the sheets printed on thicker, white paper, not utilized to make up booklets. A total of 500,000 sets were printed. The stamps were withdrawn from circulation on June 13, 1907.

The inscription "TIMBRU DE BINEFACERE" (being in addition to the customary "ROMANIA-POSTA") explains the charitable role of the issue, as the surtax denomination does not appear on the stamps. The motto in the Queen's handwriting is followed by her signature. It reads: "Dumnedeu sa ne duca mana!" (God guide our hand!).

Counterfeits were made in Brussels, Belgium and are found in great abundance. These are relatively easy to recognize using salient design differences shown in fig. 2. The originals are depicted at left, the fakes at right. Other distinguishing characteristics common to all value of the fakes are;
-Very smooth, slightly yellowish gum;
-Generally fine centering;
-Regular 11 x 11¼ perforation (originals are perforated 11½ or 11½ x 13½;
-Paler colors. In addition, all the colors are too yellowish, with the 10B. being orange red and the 15B. pale brownish violet.

Design differences peculiar to individual denominations are show in fig. 3.

In support of my statement that forgeries are abundant,I submit (Fig. 4) a postcard (measuring 147 by 105 mm.) issued for a Philatelic Exhibition held in Neuwied, West Germany (see R.P.S., No. 4/1981, p. 12). This show, held at the home of Queen Elizabeth's family, commemorated the centenary of the acclamation of the Romanian kingdom, which took place on March 14/26, 1881. Elisabeth, the daughter of Prince Hermann of Wied, was born in Neuwied in 1843. She married Prince Carl of Hohenzollern in 1869 (he became King Carol I in 1881). She died in Bucharest in 1919. A collector of folklore, she wrote poems and novels under the nom de plume of Carmen Sylva. On the postcard the spelling of her pen name differs in that it reads "Silva", not "Sylva".

The fake 10 bani value was selected for the cachet illustration. Being enlarged to almost twice the actual size, it clearly shows the characteristics of the counterfeits described. Even the color shown on the card is reddish brown, not matching the brick red of the originals. The fact that a fake was used would tend to show that such are more available that originals!

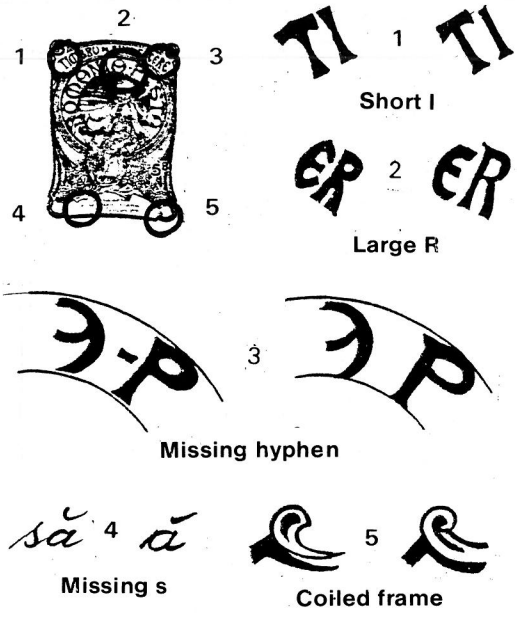

Fig. 2

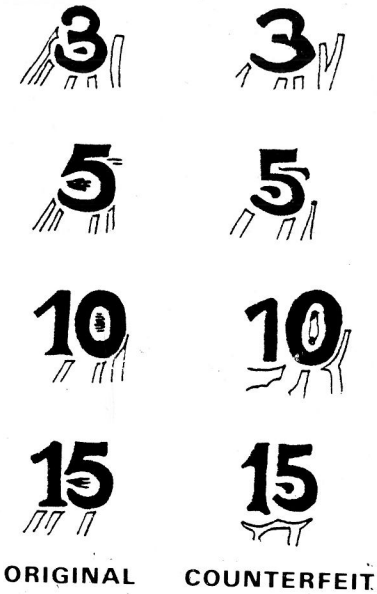

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

On "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" Handstamps. Paul C. Laptev

Several previous issues (R.P.S. Nos. 1/1981, 3/1981, 3/1982) raised the question of whether the meaning of "OPRIT A SE CENZURA" handstamps is "prohibited to censor" or, to the contrary, "stopped (retained) to be censored".

A well known slogan cancellation (illustrated below) used just before World War II reads "ESTE OPRIT A SE INTRODUCE IN SCRISORI BANI SAU ALTE OBIECTE". It translates "It is prohibited (forbidden) to enclose money or other objects in letters". Thus, without doubt, thw word "OPRIT" was used in the sense of "prohibited". If this same word also bears the same meaning in the "Oprit a se cenzura" handstamps, the correct translation would have to be "Prohibited to censor".

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How Two 19th Century Catalogs Listed Romanian Postal Cards

DAVID GIJIRIGUIAN New York, N.Y.

Nowadays, most people say that postal cards collecting has been popular only in the last 10 to 20 years. Actually, this philatelic field has long possessed devoted researchers. Two catalogs published during the last 15 years of the 19th century attract attention almost 100 years later, bringing insights to modern research.

In London, England, Edward A. M. Fry published "A Catalogue for Collectors of Post Cards". Unfortunately, its title page does not record the year of publication. Based on issue dates of the latest postal cards mentioned, and on information received from Philatelistische Bibliothek of Munich, Germany, the year of publication should be 1886. This catalog describes, amongst others, the Romanian cards issued between June 1873 and May 1883. These correspond to Nos. CP 1 — CP 19 of the 1974 Romanian Catalog, or Nos. 1 — 17 in the Higgins & Gage Catalog.

Fry assigns separate numbers to each major variety. For instance, the June 1873 cards appear as Nos. 1—7, each number being followed by a letter as 1a, 2b, 3c, etc. For July 1873 cards, only 2 varieties are given, Nos. 8a and 9b. For the Oct. 1873 card, 10 varieties (10a—19j) are listed. In all, for the June 1873 — May 1883 period, this catalog contains Nos. 1—55.

Double cards — or reply cards, as Fry calls them — are presented in a separate chapter which appears after the single card listing. The introduction to the "Reply Cards" chapter mentions that "when so employed are surcharged at the Post Office

A

CATALOGUE FOR COLLECTORS

OF

POST CARDS.

BY

ED. ALEX. M. FRY.

LONDON, N.

PEMBERTON, WILSON & Co.,

PALMERSTON ROAD, WOOD GREEN.

Entered at Stationers' Hall.

with the letter R.P. (i.e., Respuns platit) in a circle in blue ink". The listing for these begins with No. 100. The June 1873 double card appears as Nos. 100—105, with No. 100 representing a double card consisting of single card varieties 1 and 2, No. 101 of 1

and 3, etc. Differentiating double card varieties by considering the varieties of the single cards they are made up of, is a concept neglected later by more modern catalogs. The reason for this, in our opinion, is that double cards are scarcer and harder

1873. (*Oct.*) Cards same as 1873 (*June*), but arms reduced to 18 mm. in width. Buff card.
5 b. blue.
Varieties.

10. *a.* Ornament under CARTA DE POSTA has four rays issuing from the diamond.
Par. 3, lămurită *for* lămurită.
„ 3, posibil *for* possibil.
„ 4, no period at end of paragraph.
„ 5, scrisorile *for* scrissorile.

11. *b.* Same as *a*, but Par. 4 has a period at the end.

12. *c.* Ornament with rays.
Par. 1, ca *for* la, and no period at end of paragraph.
„ 2, decât *for* decăt; n in numai badly formed.
„ 3, posibil *for* possibil.
„ 4, second i in nimicu badly formed or wholly missing.
„ 5, scrisorile *for* scrissorile.

13. *d.* Ornament with rays.
Par. 2, decât *for* decăt.
„ 3, posibil *for* possibil.
„ 5, pot *for* potu; scrisorjle *for* scrissorile; plătjnduse *for* plătinduse.

14. *e.* Ornament with rays; Period at end of third line of inscription is inside the bracket.
Par. 2, ceri for scri.
„ 5, scrisorjle *for* scrissorile; plătjduduse *for* plătinduse.

15. *f.* Ornament with rays; accent over first I of OBSERVATII instead of over second I.
Par. 2, decât *for* decăt.
„ 3, posibil *for* possibil.
„ 5, badly formed accent over a of Cartile; plătjnduse *for* plătinduse.

16. *g.* Ornament with rays.
Interiurul *for* interiorul in second line of inscriptions.
Par. 3, posibil *for* possibil.
„ 5, recomada *for* recomanda; scrisorile *for* scrissorile.

17. *h.* Ornament without rays.
Par. 1, no period at end of paragraph.
„ 2, decât *for* decăt.
„ 3, cât for căt.

Note.—With these exceptions, this last is a perfect card.

18. *i.* Ornament without rays.
Par. 1, no period at the end of paragraph.
„ 2, decât for decăt; sometimes t of correspondenta has no cedilla under it.
„ 3, cât *for* căt
„ 5, first two or three letters of scrissorile badly formed.

19. *j.* Ornament without rays.
First and second lines of address are ruled, the third is partly ruled and partly dotted, and the fourth is dotted.
Par. 1, no period at end of paragraph.
„ 2, decât *for* decăt.
„ 3, cât *for* căt.
„ 5, first two or three letters of scrissorile badly formed.

1875 (*Jan.*) Stamp type 138 in right upper corner, Arms (18 mm.) in left upper corner. CARTA DE POSTA in open capitals in upper centre, followed by an ornamental dash, without rays. No other inscription at head, and the rest of the card as in last issue. Stamp in color, rest in black on buff card.
5 b. blue.
A. Par. 1, vendŭ. Par. 2, decât. Par. 3, căt. Par. 4, plăteste.

20. *a.* Large D. Par. 5, scrisorile *for* scrissorile.
Note.—If it were not for this variation the card would be perfect.

21. *b.* Large D. Par. 2, ocrrespondenta *for* correspondenta.
„ 3, posibil *for* possibil.
„ 5, scrisorile *for* scrissorile.

22. *c.* Large D. Par. 2, no cedilla under t of cartii.
„ 3, posibil *for* possibil.
„ 5, scrisorile *for* scrissorile.

23. *d.* Small D. Par 1, de *for* pe.
„ 3, posibil *for* possibil.
„ 5, scrisorjle *for* scrissorile.

24. *e.* Large D. Par. 3, posibil *for* possibil.
„ 5, no accent over a of Posta; scrisorile *for* scrissorile and the sixth and seventh letters of this word badly formed.
B. Par. 1, vendŭ. Par. 2. decât. Par. 3, căt. Par. 4, plăteste.

25. *a.* Small D. Par. 1, Cartile and Posta without accents over a's.
„ 4, Plateste without accent over the a.
„ 5, c *of* recomanda badly formed.

26. *b.* Small D. Par. 4, Plateste without accent over the a.
„ 5, Platinduse „ „ „ „ a.

1873 (*June.*) Stamp type 138 in right upper corner, Arms (20 mm. wide) of Roumania in left upper corner. Inscription in three lines in upper centre, 1st, CARTA DE POSTA in fancy capitals with ornamental dash beneath, 2nd, "Destinată a circula deschisă in totŭ interiorul Românief," 3rd, "(Legea din 31 Martie 1873,)" two long and two short dotted lines for address, the first preceded by D, and the third by *la*. .The lower part of the card, which is separated from the upper part by a thick ruled line, is devoted to five paragraphs of instructions, divided into two columns. Arms and inscriptions in black, stamp in color on white or azure-white card, 5½ × 3½ in., 140 × 90 mm.
5 Bani, blue.
Varieties.

1. *a.* Accent over "a" in "circulă," none over "a" in "deschisă."
Period after POSTA over "t" in "exactă" below.
Par. 2, "p" in "permis," over "t" in "este" below.

2. *b.* Period after POSTA over first (?) "a," in "exactă" below.
No period at end of first paragraph.
Par. 2. "p" in "permis" in space between "este" and "reservat" below.

3. *c.* Period after POSTA over first "a" in "exactă" below.
No period at end of first paragraph.
Par. 2, "p" in "permis" in space between "este" and "reservat" below.
Par. 5, "scrissox" *for* "scrissorile.',

4. *d.* Period after POSTA between "t" and "ă" of "exactă" below.
Par. 2, "p" in "permis" between "s" and "t" of "este" below.
Par. 5, "potŭ" with only half a "t."

5. *e.* Period after POSTA over "c" in "exactă" below.
Par. 2, "p" in "permis" over "s" of "este" below.
Par. 3, no accent over "a" in "scrissa."

6. *f.* Period after POSTA over last "a" in "exactă" below.
Par. 2, "p" in permis" between ""s "and "t" of "este" below.
Par. 3, the "i" of "si pe" is wanting.

7. *g.* Period after POSTA over last "a" in "exactă" below.
Par. 2, "p" in "permis" over last "e" in "este" below.

1873 (*July.*) Cards same as previous issue, but on dark brown card.
5 b. blue.
Varieties.

8. *a.* With period after CARTA DE POSTA.
9. *b.* Without period after ditto.
Note.—The above are the principal varieties, but these cards are on such rough paper that many other slight differences, such as want of punctuation, or of accents are to be found.

27. *c.* Small D. Par. 2, correspondenta without accent over a.
„ 4, plateste „ „ „ „ a.
„ 4, aducatorului „ „ „ 2nd a.

28. *d* Small D. Par. 2, correspondenta without accent over a.
„ 3, urmează *for* urmează.
„ 5, second r in *inregistare* in Roman type.
C. Par. 1, vendŭ. Par. 2, decât. Par. 3, căt. Par. 4, plăteste.

29. *b.* Large D. Par. 3, serissă *for* serissă; posibil *for* possibil.
„ 5, scrisorile *for* scrissorile.

1876 (*End of.*) Same as issue of (*Jan.*) 1875, but with the following differences.
A. Par. 1, vindŭ. Par. 2, decât. Par. 3, căt. Par. 4, plătesce.

30. *a.* Large D. Par. 3, 2nd s in adressa upside down.
31. *b.* Small D. Par. 3, 2nd s „ „ „
„ 4, aducatorulor *for* aducatorului.
32. *c.* Large D. Par. 5, scrisorile *for* scrissorile.
33. *d.* Small D. Par. 2, no comma after adressa.
34. *e.* Large D. Par. 1, nonjnala *for* nominala.
35. *f.* Small D. Par. 1, bjurourile *for* biurourile.
36. *g.* Small D. Par. 4, nimic *for* nimicu.
37. *h.* Large D. Par. 2, no i in permis.
„ 3, 2nd s in adressa upside down.
38. *i.* Large D. Par. 4, nimic *for* nimicu.
„ 5, pot *for* potu.
39. *j.* Large D. Par. 3, posibil *for* possibil.
B. Par. 1, vindŭ. Par. 2, decât. Par. 3, căt. Par. 4, plătesce.
40. *a.* Large D. Par. 4, platesce without accent over the a.
C. Par. 1, vindŭ. Par. 2, decât. Par. 3, căt. Par. 4, plătesce.
41. *a.* Large D. Par. 1, no hyphen between telegrapho and postale.
„ 2, period instead of hyphen in the word correspondenta.
„ 4, platesce without accent over a.
„ 5, scrisssorile *for* scrissorile; platinduse without accent over a.
42. *b.* Small D. Same as last card, but small D. and Par. 4 platesce has accent over a.
43. *c.* Large D. Par. 1, valorea *for* valoarea.

1877 (*Sept.*) Stamp type 138 in right upper corner, Arms in left upper corner. Inscription in upper centre CARTA DE POSTA in open capitals, with ornamental dash beneath. Three ruled lines for address, the first preceded by D, the third by *la*. The lower part of the card, separated from the upper part by a ruled line has five paragraphs of instructions, in two columns. All within a single lined frame, 4½ × 3 7/16 in., 115 × 78 mm. Stamp in color, remainder in black.

a. Yellowish-white card, 4¾ × 3¾ in., 121 × 82 mm., dotted lines separating the cards in the sheet.

44. 5 b. red-brown.

b. Card as last, but perforated along the dotted line.

45. 5. b. red-brown.

1877 (*Oct.*) Same as issue 1877 (*Sept.*) but on white paper, 5¼ × 3¾ in., 135 × 95 mm.

46. 5 b. red-brown.
Variety.

47. Without period after 5 in Par. 5.

1878 (*March.*) Stamp and Arms as before. Inscription in upper centre CARTA POSTALA, with dash under. Four dotted lines for address, the first preceded by *d*, the third by *la*. Thick ruled line separating the card in two parts, the lower having the five paragraphs of instructions. In right lower corner is "Tiraju– 1878." The cards are separated in the sheet by perforations. Stamp in color, remainder in black on rose colored card, 6 × 3¾ in., 155 × 100 mm. **(These sizes vary.)**

48. 5 b. blue.
Variety.

49. "Tiraju—" without date.

1879 (*July.*) Stamp as before, Arms larger. Inscription and heading of lines as before, but in different type, without instructions at foot. All in black on a rose colored card, 6 × 3¾ in., 155 × 100 mm. (These sizes vary.)

50. 5 b. black.
Variety.
The lines for address closer up to the inscription, and card considerably narrower.

51. 5 b. black.

1879 (*Nov.*) Stamp and Arms as before. Inscription in three lines in upper centre, 1st, UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE underlined, 2nd, "Roumanie," 3rd, CARTA POSTALA. Four dotted lines for address, as before. All in color on rose colored card. 6 × 3¾ in., 155 × 100 mm.

52. 10 b. deep rose (shades.)

53. 10 b. „ on glazed card.

1883 (*Jan.*) Same as 1879 (*Nov.*), but address side is buff, and the reverse side greyish-white.

54. 10 b. rose.

1883 (*May.*) Similar to card of 1879 (*Nov.*) but CARTA POSTALA is more spaced, and measures 2¼ in. 64 mm. Deep pink card, reverse white, black impression.

55. 5. b. black.

REPLY CARDS.

NOTE.—The reply cards up to and including the issue of 1879 (*July*), are simply two ordinary single cards of each issue, which, when so employed are surcharged at the Post Office with the letter R.P. (i.e., Respuns platit) in a circle in blue ink.

1873 (*June.*) The following varieties have been found together.

5 + 5 b. blue on white.

100. Var. 1 and Var 2.
101. „ 1 „ „ 3.
102. „ 2 „ „ 3.
103. „ 4 „ „ 4.
104. „ 4 „ „ 5.
105. „ 5 „ „ 6.

1873 (*July.*) 5 + 5 b. blue on dark brown.

106. Var. 8 and Var. 8.
107. „ 8 „ „ 9.

1873 (*Oct.*) 5 + 5 b. blue on buff.

108. Var. 10 and Var. 13.
109. „ 10 „ „ 15.
110. „ 14 „ „ 19.
111. „ 16 „ „ 12.

1875 (*Jan.*) 5 + 5 b. blue on buff.

112. Var. 21 and Var. 25.
113. „ 24 „ „ 28.
114. „ 25 „ „ ?
115. „ 29 „ „ 27.

1876 (*End of.*) 5 + 5 b. blue on buff.

116. Var. 32 and Var. 36.

1877 (*Sept.*)

117. 5 + 5 b. red-brown on white card.
118. 5 + 5 brown „ „ „

1877 (*Oct.*)

119. 5 + 5 b. red-brown on white paper.
120. 5 + 5 b. „ „ „ without period after 5 in Par. 5.

1878 (*March.*)

121. 5 + 5 b. blue on rose.
122. 5 + 5 b. „ „ „ without date after "Tiraju—"

1879 (*July.*)

123. 5 + 5 b. black on rose.
124. 5 + 5 b. „ „ „ Lines for address nearer inscription.

1879 (*Nov.*) Similar to the single cards of this date. The first half has in left lower corner *Ce côté est reservé à l'adresse.—La carte ci jointe est destinée à la réponse;* and in right lower corner. *Aceasta fata este reservata pentru adresa.—Alaturata carta este destinata pentru respuns.* The reply half has RESPONSE below third line of inscription, and in left lower corner, *Ce côté*, etc., and in right lower corner, *Aceasta fata*, etc. Hinged D. Perf. 12.

125. 10 + 10 b. deep rose (shades) on rose.

1883 (*March.*) Similar to the single cards of 1883 (*Jan.*), with the additional inscriptions as reply cards of 1879 (*Nov.*) Hinged D. not Perf.

10 + 10 b. rose on buff.

126. RESPONSE with large accent.
127. „ „ small „

1883 (*May.*) Similar to the single card of this date, with the additional inscriptions as on reply cards of 1879 (*Nov.*)

121. 10 + 10 b. black on rose.
Variety.
129. 10 + 10 b. ?

to find than single cards. Card H & G #2 is especially rare and missing in many collections, as it was in use only for approximately 4—6 weeks. Another major reason is that precise single card variety descriptions did not, and still do not exist.

The philatelic community must come to a consensus about the question: which cards are major varieties — presenting deliberate printing changes — and which are merely minor printing varieties consisting of broken letters, or letters which slipped or were damaged. Fry's excellent solution has been disregarded by modern catalogs. Fry differentiated varieties by considering the relative position of key words and/or letters in relation to others on the line above, or below. For instance, when describing No. 2b (No. 1 in the Romanian Catalog) Fry notes "Par. 2. "p" in "permis" in space between "este" and "reservat" below. Such differences were produced by different layouts, thus these varieties are of a major nature, originating as they do from a different printing, as compared with the minor varieties caused by printing accidents.

This idea of differentiating between cards based upon layouts was adopted a few years later by George H. Watson. In 1891, he published "Post Card and Letter Card Catalogue" in New York. This catalog's Romanian section lists cards up to 1891, the "25th Anniversary of King Carol's reign" issue (No. 31 in the Romanian Catalog, No. 23 in Higgins & Gage) being its last entry. This listing assigns 27 numbers, counting the double cards.

The numeration system more closely matches that of modern catalogs than Fry's does. Cards are given numbers followed by letters for varieties. The June 1873 postal card is thus described as No. 1, with varieties A—G. The double card (H & G #2) is presented as "two ordinary cards unsevered" but gives 6 types described according to the varieties each double card is made up of: A and B; A and C; B and C; D

WATSON'S

Post Card AND Letter Card

CATALOGUE.

1891.

GEORGE H. WATSON,

36 Broad Street, New York, U. S. A.

NEW YORK:
PRESS OF DOUGLAS TAYLOR, 69 NASSAU STREET, N. Y.
1891.

179

The following have been found together:
A and B—A and C—B and C—D and D—D and E—E and F.

Same as above, but on different colored cards.

3. 1873. 5 b. blue on very rough dark brown cards.
A. No period after POSTA.
B. Period after POSTA.
C. Same as B, but no cedilla under T of CORRESPONDENTA in Par. 2.
D. Same as B, but in Par. 3 last letter of ADRESSA missing.
E. Same as B, but in Par. 5 the third, fifth and ninth letters of SCRISSORILE are missing.

4. 1873. 5 x 5 b. blue on very rough dark brown cards; see Note above No. 2. T. 3.
The following have been found together:
A and B—C and D.

Same as above, but arms smaller, only 18 mm. wide.

5. 1873. 5 b. blue on pale buff cards.
A. INTERIURUL in second line of inscription. In Par. 3 POSIBIL. In Par. 5 RECOMADA—SCRISORILE.
B. In Par. 1 CA. In Par. 2 N of NUMAI badly formed. In Par. 3 POSIBIL. In Par. 5 SCRISORILE, no period at end of Par. 1.
C. In Par. 3 LAMURTA—POSIBIL. In Par. 5 SCRISORILE.
D. Period at end of third line of inscription is inside bracket. In Par. 2 ECRI. In Par. 5 SCRISORILE—PLATJNDUSE.
E. In Par. 3 POSIBIL. In Par. 5 POT—SCRISORILE—PLATJNDUSE.
F. Second line for address ruled instead of dotted, no cedilla under T of CORRESPONDENTA, no period at end of Par. 1.
G. No period at end of Par. 1. (This is the most correct card of this issue.)
H. No period at end of Par. 1, first two letters of SCRISSORILE badly formed.
J. Accent over A of CIRCULA in second line of inscription, no period at end of Par. 4.
K. Accent over first I of OBSERVATII in headline to instructions. In Par. 3 POSIBIL. In Par. 5 badly formed accent or no accent over A of CARTILE—also PLATJNDUSE, no period at end of Pars. 1 and 4.
L. No period at end of Pars. 1 and 3, and no cedilla under T of CORRESPONDENTA.
M. No period at end of Pars. 1 and 3, cedilla under T of CORRESPONDENTA, and tail of P of PLATINDUSE missing.

6. 1873. 5 x 5 b. blue on pale buff cards. T. 3.
The following have been found together:
D and J—D and G—A and B—C and E—K and J—G and G..

ROUMANIA.

CARTA DE POSTA in fancy capitals at top, octagonal stamp at right, arms (20 mm. wide) at left, five paragraphs of instructions at foot.

1. 1873. 5 b. blue on white card.
A. Accent over A of CIRCULA, none over A of DESCHISA, period after POSTA over T of EXACTA below. In Par. 2 P of PERMIS is over T of ESTE.
B. Period after POSTA is over first A in EXACTA, no period at end of first para. In Par. 2 P of PERMIS is over the space between ESTE and RESERVAT.
C. Same as B, but in Par. 5 SCRISSOX instead of SCRISSORILE.
D. Period after POSTA is between T and A of EXACTA. In Par. 2 P of PERMIS is between S and T of ESTE. In Par. 5 POTU with only half a T.
E. Period after POSTA is between A and C of EXACTA. In Par. 2 P of PERMIS is over S of ESTE. In Par. 3 no accent over A of SCRISSA.
F. Period after POSTA is over last A of EXACTA. In Par. 2 P of PERMIS is between S and T of ESTE. In Par. 3 the I of SI PE is missing.
G. Period after POSTA is over last A of EXACTA. In Par. 2 P of PERMIS is over last E in ESTE.

NOTE.—Reply cards of this issue are simply two ordinary cards unsevered, when so employed are surcharged at the post-office with the letters R. P. (*i. e.*, RESPUNS PLATIT) in a circle in blue ink.

2. 1873. 5 x 5 b. blue on white. T 3.

CARTA DE POSTA at top in double-lined letters, five paragraphs of instructions at foot.

7. 1875. 5 b. blue on pale buff, fifth word of Par. 1 is VENDU.
   - A. D before first dotted line large (6 mm. high). In Par. 5 SCRISORILE. (With this exception this card is correct.)
   - B. D large. In Par. 2 CORRESPONDENTA. In Par. 3 POSIBIL. In Par. 5 SCRISORILE.
   - C. D large. In Par. 3 POSIBIL. In Par. 5 SCRISORILE, the O and R generally missing or badly formed, and no accent over A of POSTA in Par. 5, no period after Par. 4.
   - D. D large. In Par. 3 SERIOSA and POSIBIL. In Par. 5 SCRISORILE.
   - E. D large. In Par. 3 no cedilla under T of CARTII. In Par. 3 POSIBIL. In Par. 5 SCRISORILE.
   - F. D small (4½ mm. high). In Par. 1 DE. In Par. 3 POSIBIL. In Par. 5 SCRISORILE.
   - G. D small. In Par. 1 no accents over the A's of CARTILE and POSTA. In Par. 4 no accent over the A of PLATESTE. In Par. 5 C of RECOMANDA badly formed.
   - H. D small. In Par. 4 no accent over A of PLATESTE, or over the A of PLATINDUSE in Par. 5.
   - J. D small. In Par. 3 no accent over A of CORRESPONDENTA. In Par. 4 no accent over the A of PLATESTE, or over the second A of ADUCATORULUI, no period at end of Par. 4.
   - K. D small. In Par. 3 no accent over A of CORRESPONDENTA. In Par. 5 the second R of INREGISTRARE is in Roman type.
8. 1875. 5 x 5 b. blue on pale buff. T 3. Fifth word in Par. 1 is VENDU.
   The following have been found together:
   B and G—C and K—D and J—B and H—C and F.
9. 1876. 5 b. blue on pale buff, fifth word in Par. 1 is VINDU.
   - A. D large. In Par. 1 VALOREA, no period at end of Par. 4.
   - B. D large. Same as 9 A, but D of DE in headline of instructions turned sideways.
   - C. D large. In Par. 1 no hyphen between TELEGRAFO and POSTALE. In Par. 3 period instead of a hyphen in the word CORRESPON.DENTA. In Par. 5 SCRISSORILE, no accent over A of PLATESCE in Par. 4.
   - D. D large. In Par. 3 POSIBIL.
   - E. D large. In Par. 4 NIMIC. In Par. 5 POT, no period at end of Par. 3.
   - F. D large. In Par. 4 no accent over A of PLATESCE.
   - G. D large. In Par. 3 the second S of ADRESSA is upside down.
   - H. D large. In Par. 2 I of PERMIS missing. In Par. 3 the second S of ADRESSA is upside down.
   - J. D large. In Par. 5 SCRISORILE.
   - K. D small. In Par. 1 no hyphen between TELEGRAFO and POSTALE. In Par. 3 period instead of a hyphen in the word CORRESPON.DENTA. In Par. 5 SCRISSORILE.

   - L. D small. In Par. 4 NIMIC. In Par. 5 POTU.
   - M. D small. In Par. 4 NIMIC. In Par. 5 POT.
   - N. D small. In Par. 2 no comma after ADRESSA.
   - O. D small. In Par. 1 BJUROURILE. In Par. 2 CORRESAOSDENTA.
   - P. D small. In Par. 3 SCRISSORILE.
   - Q. D small. In Par. 1 BJUROURILE. In Par. 3 the second S of SCRISSORILE is upside down, no period at ends of Paras. 2 and 4.
   - R. D small. In Par. 3 the second S of ADRESSA is upside down. In Par. 4 ADUCATORULOR.
10. 1876. 5 x 5 b. blue on pale buff. T 3. Fifth word in Par. 1 VINDU.
    The following have been found together:
    J and L—N and F—L and C.

CARTA DE POSTA at top in open capitals, smaller card than last, single lined frame, three lines for address, octagon stamp.

11. 1877. 5 b. brown on white card.
    - A. Dotted lines separating cards on sheet.
    - B. Perforated along dotted line.
12. 1877. 5 x 5 b. brown on white card. T 4. This is two single cards unsevered.
13. 1877. 5 b. brown on white paper.
    - A. With period after 5 of Par. 5.
    - B. Without period after 5.
14. 1877. 5 x 5 b. brown on white paper. T 4. Two single cards unsevered, one 13 A, the other 13 B.

CARTA POSTALA in heavy black letters at top, arms and stamp as before, no frame, dash under CARTA POSTALA.

15. 1878. 5 b. blue on rose card.
    - A. TIRAJU—1876 at foot, dash below CARTA POSTALA 15 mm. long.
    - B. Same as A, but dash only 11 mm. long.
    - C. TIRAJU— at foot, dash same as in B.
16. 1878. 5 x 5 b. blue on rose card. T 4. Two single cards unsevered.
    - A. Same as 15 A, on both cards.
    - B. Same as 15 C, on both cards.

Inscription as in No. 15, but different type, arms larger, octagon stamp, no instructions at foot.

17. 1879. 5 b. black on rose card, reverse rose.
    - A. Stamp is 13 mm. above first line for address, not perforated at right.

    - B. Stamp is 9 mm. above line, not perforated at right and bottom.
    - C. Same as 17 A, not perforated at left.
18. 1879. 5 x 5 b. black on rose card. T 4. Two single cards unsevered.
    - A. Same as 17 A, on both cards.
    - B. Same as 17 B, on both cards.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE—ROUMANIE in two lines at top, arms and stamp as before.

19. 1879. 10 b. rose on rose card, reverse rose.
    - A. Not perforated at left and bottom.
    - B. Not perforated at right.
    - C. Not perforated at right and bottom.
20. 1879. 10 x 10 b. rose on rose card. B 4.
    - A. Perforated at fold, on reply large accent over E of REPONSE.
    - B. Same as A, but small accent.
    - C. Not perforated at fold.
21. 1882. 10 b. rose on buff card, reverse white.
    - A. Not perforated at top.
    - B. Not perforated at bottom.
22. 1882. 10 x 10 b. rose on buff card. B 4.
    - A. On reply large accent over E of REPONSE.
    - B. On reply small accent over E of REPONSE.

Similar to Nos. 17 and 18, octagon stamp.

23. 1883. 5 b. black on rose, reverse white.
    - A. CARTA POSTALA 64 mm. long.
    - B. CARTA POSTALA 46 mm. long.
24. 1883. 5 x 5 b. black on rose, reverse white. B 4.
    - A. CARTA POSTALA 64 mm. long.
    - B. CARTA POSTALA 46 mm. long.

CARTA POSTALA in upper centre 48½ mm. long, rectangular stamp at right, arms at left.

25. 1890. 5 b. black on rose, reverse white.
    - A. Fourth dotted line 71½ mm., perforated at top, bottom and right.
    - B. Fourth dotted line 69½ mm., perforated at bottom and right.
26. 1890. 5 x 5 b. black on rose, reverse white. B 4.
    - A. Perforated, when not folded, at bottom and right.
    - B. Perforated, when not folded, at top and right.

CARTA POSTALA in upper centre, stamp at right inscribed JUBILEUL DE 25 ANI AL DOMNIEI REGELUI CAROL I., no frame.

27. 1891. 5 b. black on rose, reverse pale buff.

and D; D and E; E and F. For the July 1873 issue, listed as No. 3, we find 5 varieties: A—E; for the corresponding double card, listed as No. 4, there are 2 varieties: A and B; C and D. Along the same lines used by Fry, Watson relies mostly on relative positions of the letters and follows Fry pretty closely as far as descriptions of varieties.

Besides their historical importance, these two catalogs show that our present ones are deficient. Newer listings lack the correct criteria upon which to base a scientific and easy to follow classification system. It is not correct to assume that fallen or damaged letters constitute major varieties. The modern catalogs rely on early 20th century title "Beschreibung and Katalogisierung der Ganzsachen von Rumänien". Zoscsák, residing in Bucharest, was a well known name in the philatelic world of the time. After Ascher's catalog was issued in 1928, Zoscsák articles were forgotten and were neglected even in bibliographies. These articles, being highly scientific, deserve a better fate. If a much desired new description and cataloging of early Romanian postal cards is to be accomplished, the publications such as the Ascher catalog. This catalog gives as its main bibliographic reference articles by Rudolf Zoscsák. These were published between 1908 and 1911 in "Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung", under the Zoscsák articles are a must. Zoscsák differentiates varieties according to letter or word positions. Unfortunately, the Ascher catalog and all others it inspired, neglected this aspect, as well as other innovative approaches included in Zoscsák's study.

We stress that the cataloging of the early Romanian postal cards should be restructured under more scientific scrutiny. Before starting this activity, everything previously written about Romanian postal cards must be studied and critically analyzed. We can then arrive at a classification system which will gain common acceptance.

Major Articles in the Romanian Magazine FILATELIA

No. 1/1982

Numeral Markings of the Jassy Mailmen — *Silviu Dragomir*
Overprinted Postal Cards, 1948—1952 — *Iosif Micu*

No. 2/1982

Railroad Service Markings Postally Used in Railroad Stations of Romania — *Dumitru Paşşalega*

No. 3/1982

Uncatalogued Postal Stationery — *Ioan Borca*
1890—1891 Postal Card Variety — *Dr. Răzvan Panaitescu*

No. 4/1982

Where was "Mărul Roşu"? — *Mircea Ţelegut*
Forwarding Agents in the Danubian Region — *Norbert Blistyar*

No. 5/1982

The First Romanian, Danubian Mobile Post Offices, Part I — *Dumitru Paşşalega*
When was the Essay Made? — *Leonard Paşcanu*
New Data on Old Publications — *Gabriel Sassower*

No. 6/1982

The First Romanian, Danubian Mobile Post Offices, Part II — *Dumitru Paşşalega*
More Numeral Markings of Mailmen? — *Iulian Constantin*
The Romanian Post Offices in Constantinople in 1896 — *Mihail Paşcanu*

New Awards for R.P.S.

In the past year, Romanian Philatelic Studies has received the following awards at philatelic literature competitions:

Silver - *Prima Mostra Mondiale di Letteratura Filatelica, Nov. 1982, Milano, Italy;*

Vermeil - *POLPEX 83, March 1983, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.;*

Silver - *PHILTEMA 82, April 1983, Cinisello, Italy;*

Vermeil - *Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, April 1983, Weston, Mass. U.S.A.;*

These show that our publication is appreciated. The editor would like to thank our members for their financial support, the authors for their time and efforts in preparing high quality articles and Mr. Mark Fromer of Brooklyn, N.Y. for correcting the translations.

The Forbin's Listings of Early Romanian Revenues

George Pataki

We are publishing part of the Romanian listings from Forbin's "1915 Catalogue des Timbres Fiscaux" because this work is not readily available as well as to show that further research is required to correct and update this very old catalogue.

POSTERS, RECEIPTS, etc.

1872. 32 by 45 mm. Perf. 11—12.

1 - 5 b. green and black
2 - 10 b. yellow and black
3 - 15 b. rose and black
4 - 20 b. lilac and black
5 - 25 b. blue-lilac and black.

NOTE: When two colors are given, the first color of this and the following issues, up to the 1911 "Effigy" issue (No. 25), refers to the background while the stamp's main design is always black. While the aforementioned listing gives the perfs as "11—12", I have measured perf gauging 10½ on a copy of the 25 b. denomination.

1875. 32 by 45 mm. Perf. 11—13½.

6 - 5 b. yellowish-brown and black
7 - 10 b. blue and black
8 - 15 b. gray and black
9 - 20 b. rose and black
10 - 25 b. green and black.

1878. Perf. 11—11½ or 13½, simple or compound.

11 - 5 b. green
12 - 10 b. yellowish-brown
13 - 15 b. blue and black
14 - 20 b. gray and black
15 - 25 b. rose and black.

1890. Same Wmkd. coat-of-arms.

16 - 5 b. lilac and black
17 - 10 b. rose and black
18 - 15 b. yellowish-brown and black
19 - 25 b. green and black.

1898. Same Unwmkd.

20 - 5 b. lilac and black
21 - 10 b. rose and black
22 - 15 b. yellowish-brown and black
23 - 25 b. orange and black
24 - 30 b. green and black.

1911. 30 by 35 mm. Effigy. Perf. 11½.

25 - 10 b. brown.

NOTE: The color of No. 25 appears to be grayish brown instead of the listed brown. Also, copies of these were found perforated 13, 11½ x 13½ and 13½ x 11½ instead of the indicated 11½. Furthermore, the size of these early revenues can vary quite a bit from the average size indicated by this catalogue due to imperfect perforations.

COMMERCIAL PAPERS

1875. 32 by 45 mm. Perf. 11½—13½, simple or compound.
With indication of transaction amount.

1 - 5 b. blue and black
2 - 10 b. blue and black
3 - 15 b. blue and black
4 - 20 b. blue and black
5 - 25 b. blue and black
6 - 30 b. blue and black
7 - 35 b. yellowish-brown and black
8 - 40 b. yellowish-brown and black
9 - 45 b. yellowish-brown and black
10 - 50 b. yellowish-brown and black
a. (Perf. 12½)
11 - 1 l. yellowish-brown and black
a. (Perf. 12½)
12 - 1½ l. yellowish-brown and black
13 - 2 l. gray and black
14 - 2½ l. gray and black
15 - 3 l. gray and black
16 - 3½ l. gray and black
17 - 4 l. gray and black
18 - 4½ l. gray and black
19 - 5 l. green and black
20 - 5½ l. green and black
21 - 6 l. green and black
22 - 6½ l. green and black
23 - 7 l. green and black
24 - 7½ l. green and black
25 - 8 l. rose and black
26 - 8½ l. rose and black
27 - 9 l. rose and black
28 - 9½ l. rose and black
29 - 10 l. rose and black.

Imperforate essays exist.

NOTE: The first color indicates the paper while the second, which is always black, refers to the printing. However, Forbin lists the 10 b. denomination as "blue and black" but I have such a copy on orange paper.

1886. Same. Without indication of transaction amount. Perf. 11—13½, simple or compound. All denominations exist on unwatermarked paper while Nos. 31—37 and 39 also exist on watermarked paper (coat-of-arms).

30 - 10 b. blue and black
31 - 20 b. blue and black
32 - 30 b. blue and black
33 - 40 b. yellowish-brown and black
34 - 50 b. yellowish-brown and black
35 - 1 l. yellowish-brown and black
36 - 2 l. gray and black
37 - 3 l. gray and black
38 - 4 l. gray and black
39 - 5 l. green and black
40 - 6 l. green and black
41 - 7 l. green and black
42 - 8 l. rose and black
43 - 9 l. rose and black
44 - 10 l. rose and black.

NOTE: As above, the first color indicates the paper color while the second color, which is always black, refers to the printing. The watermark consists of the royal coat-of-arms (35 by 24 mm.), flanked by two lions, at the bottom of which is a ribbon inscribed "Nihil Sine Deo". It is not listed and/or illustrated by any Romanian catalogue.

1911. 28 by 50 mm. Effigy. Perf. 11½.

45 - 10 b. gray
46 - 30 b. gray
47 - 50 b. gray
48 - 1 l. brown
49 - 3 l. brown
50 - 4 l. brown
51 - 5 l. brown
52 - 10 l. brown.

NOTE: A copy of the 50 b. (Nr. 47) is sage green instead of the listed gray and is perforated 13½ x 11½ instead of 11½.

All the above revenues were obliterated mostly by pen, with black ink, with a signature, a date, a straight line or crossing lines. Sometimes administrative markings were utilized. At other times these revenues were invalidated by punching holes.

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The Municipal Revenue Stamps of Timişoara

MIRCEA TELEGUŢ, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timişoara, Romania

In 1919, following the end of World War I part of the province of Banat, including its main administrative city, Timişoara, as well as the provinces of Transylvania and Crişana, were reunited with Romania. The new administration had to overcome many initial difficulties. One fiscal measure taken was issuance of a series of revenue stamps to pay the Timişoara municipality for various services. These labels are not postage stamps, but rather receipts attesting to payment of taxes or fees.

These revenue stamps were designed by Desiderius Sinkovits (1888—1930), a famous graphic artist of Timisoara. Besides its denomination, each displays the inscription: "TIMBRU FISCAL COMUNAL TIMIŞOARA" (Municipal Fiscal Stamp Timisoara) and various symbolic illustrations. Printed by photogravure, they are perforated 11½, some of them quite badly.

The 1919 issue consists of six denominations. The vertical format ones, measuring 31 by 40 mm., are the 25 bani black; 50 bani, blue; 1 leu, yellow, and 10 lei red. The horizontal format stamps measure 47 by 31 mm. and include the 2.50 lei dark blue and 5 lei green illustrating a train arriving to a city.

Some years later, new stamps, designed by the same artist, were introduced. They measure 30 to 32 by 41 mm., depending of perforation. The 3 lei, yellow brown depicts Hermes, the 8 lei, black, pictures a female symbolizing Justice while the 200 lei, green, shows a replica of the famous sculpture, "The Wolf with Romulus and Remus". Such a monument was erected in Timisoara on April 23, 1926. It spotlights the Roman ancestry of the Romanian people, and soon came to symbolize this city. Therefore, at least the highest denomination of this series, and probably the others as well, were issued around 1926.

Other fiscals inscribed "ACHITAT TAXA COMUNALĂ TIMIŞOARA" and the denomination, illustrating a coat-of-arms in a circular frame, are also known. These are the 5 lei, red, and 10 lei, green. These measure 27 to 28 by 36 mm., depending of perforation and are perforated 11½

Labels of a similar nature have also been used by other municipalities, in Romania as well as abroad. Revenue, Cinderella and some "local" collectors avidly seek them.

Notice to the Romanian Philatelic Clubs

County chapters of the Philatelists Association of Romania (Filialele Judeţene A.F.R.) which are missing any issues of the Romanian Philatelic Studies, should send a note to the editor indicating which ones are required. They will receive free copies for their libraries.

BACK ISSUES

The Romanian Philatelic Club still has some back issues. These feature interesting and useful studies. Members who have joined the club in the recent years but missed the older issues may order those listed on the front page. They will learn the latest research discoveries in the many fields of Romanian philately (as presented in the bibliography published in this issue). Furthermore, such orders bring much needed funds into the club's treasury.

Send your order to the editor, making your check payable to the Romanian Philatelic Club.

Inadmissible Postage Stamps

Dr. W. Elsner 200 Rue de la Loi, B 1049 Brussels, Belgium

Occasionally, postage stamps have been the subject of dispute between postal administrations of various countries. The theme of the stamps, the occasion for which a commemorative was issued or simply the political situation all have given rise to protests. In few cases, stamps issued by Western countries were frowned upon by the Romanian authorities. This took place during a period which was later to become known as the "Cold War".

1. The United Nations proclaimed the year 1960 as "World Refugee Year". About 70 postal administrations issued stamps to denote this. The Romanian postal authorities took offense and adopted two different methods of protest:

a) Mail with such stamps was returned. Covers bearing "World Refugee Year" stamps from Austria, Israel, Switzerland and West Germany have been seen which received a rubber stamp, measuring 70 by 36 mm., with the following text:

"RETOUR
AFFRANCHIE AVEC
TIMBRES NON ADMIS"

(Return/Franked with/Inadmissible stamps). The color of this rubber cachet is normally red, although its existence in black has also been reported.

b) Mail bearing the "World Refugee Year" stamps was also delivered to Romanian addresses. In such cases the offensive stamps were handstamped with a rubber cachet reading:

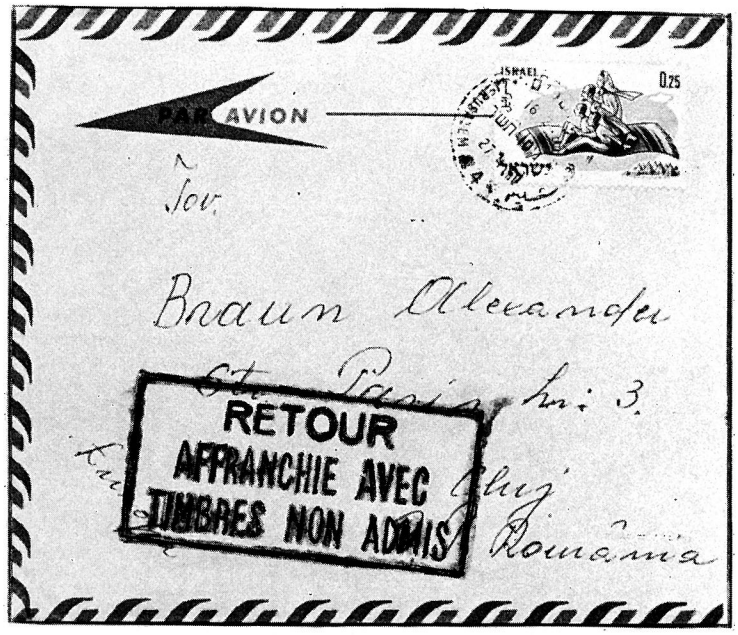
"LUPTIND PENTRU PACE
ASIGURAM VIATA, LINISTEA SI
FERICIREA COPIILOR NOSTRI"

(By fighting for peace/we assure the life, the calm and/the happiness of our children). Two types of this rubber cachet existed. One measured 50 by 24 mm., and the other 70 by 22 mm.

Slogan handstamp used to deface inadmissible "W.R.Y." stamps.

West German stamp remembering the refugees created by World War II.

Stamps issued to denote the "World Refugee Year".



Cover with a stamp issued by Israel, denoting the "World Refugee Year".

Cover with West German "W.R.Y." stamps defaced with slogan handstamp.

Covers with one or the other of these cachets are known from Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland and West Germany.

2. In 1965, West Germany issued a commemorative to publicize the plight of the Germans rendered refugees as a result of W W. II. This stamp was refused to varying degrees by most East European countries. The Romanians, however, did not return mail displaying this stamp to its sender, rather handstamped it with the same rubber cachet described above.

Comments and additional information will be welcome. An attempt will be made to compile a complete listing of these or similar "Return To Sender" covers originating from all countries. So far, no covers from the United States have become known to the author.

Cancer Fund Charity Label

George Pataki

On a cover air mailed March 12, 1940 from Bucharest to New York City (via Lisbon, Portugal), alongside the required postage stamps, a "Cancer Fund" label was affixed. The postage stamps, as well as the voluntarily used label, were obliterated with the "BANEASA AEROGARA" cancellation. Baneasa at that time was Bucharest's international airport.

The label's top text reads: "CANCERUL ESTE VINDECABIL" (Cancer is curable), while the denomination, "2 LEI" appears in both lower corners. The design portrays a female allegory, sword in hand, fighting a giant crab, the symbol of cancer. Printed in brown on white paper, it measures 20.5 by 26.5 mm., from perforation to perforation, while the design is 18.0 by 23.0 mm. It is perforated 14 x 13½.

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STAMPLESS COVERS AFTER 1862

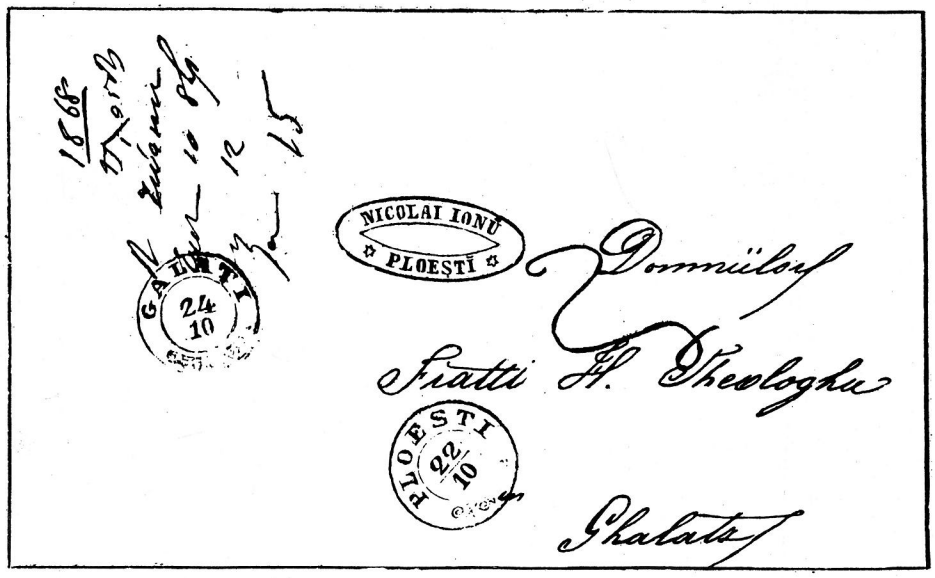
Dr. Meyer-Marcel Kohn, P.O. Box 181, IL 75101 Rishon Leziyon, Israel.

In Filatelia, No. 2/1966, the late Grigore Racoviceanu's "Perioade poștale fără francare" (Postal periods without franking) presented situations when various post offices found themselves out of postage stamps. During the 1858—1862 period, in such cases postage was paid in cash as it had been in the pre-stamp period. Racoviceanu quotes Jassy Postal Directorate telegraphic circular No. 1662/862 to Moldavian post offices. It orders them "to service franco (prepaid) letters without stamps until new (United Principalities) stamps are sent". Recent discoveries show that, even after 1862, paying postage in cash was permitted in instances when stamps were not on hand.

Below we show a cover mailed from Ploiești to Galați on October 22, 1868. It bears a "PLOESTI 22/10" dispatch cancellation and received the "GALAȚI 24/10" arrival marking. Both markings are in the form of double circles with large arabesque decoration. The Ploiesti merchant, Nicolai Ionu, applied his personal handstamp. He addressed the letter to other merchants, the "Frații Theologhu" (Theologhu Brothers). This cover does not bear postage stamps, but does show a manuscript "28", indicating that 28 bani was paid in cash by the addressee.

Silviu Dragomir's "Care a fost procedura utilizată?" (What procedure was used?), in Filatelia, No. 7/1981, displays another stampless cover originating from Ploiești. Sent on August 1, 1870 to Bucharest, it bears a double circle "PLOESTI 1/8" date cancellation. The cover bears 2 handstamps: "28" and "28 BANI". These indicate the fee to be collected from the recipient, being the sum of the 18 Bani postage fee and the 10 Bani penalty. Furthermore, Dragomir quotes Gabriel Sassower, who, in the Sept.—Oct. 1978 "The London Philatelist", presented yet another cover mailed from Ploiești to Bucharest. This one, mailed October 20, 1869, also bears a "28" handstamp.

These three items prove that at least until 1870 the Ploiesti post office permitted mailing of "porto" letters, thus with postage (and penalty) paid by the recipient.



REVIEW:

Almanahul Filatelic 1983
(Philatelic Almanac 1983)

Published by Rompresfilatelia, in Bucharest, this 216 page almanac sells for 20 lei. As those published in past years, it is a rich mixture of something for everybody. Featuring philatelic articles and some interesting studies, it also contains a great variety of non-philatelic short stories, novels, poems, historical and political pieces, crossword puzzles, jokes, marginalia, etc.

The following should be of interest to specialists: "The Abolition of Foreign Posts in Romania" by Dumitru Pașșalega; "Earliest Philatelic Exhibitions and Museums" by P. Voiculeț-Lemeny; "Romanian Military Posts During World War I" by Emanoil Săvoiu; "Ballons Montes - from Besieged Paris" by Mihail Popovici; "Postal Routes in Moldavia During the Middle Ages" by C. Merișca; "Postal Stationery - Shipping Forms" by Emanoil Săvoiu; "The Grid Postal Markings" by Silviu Dragomir; "Mechanized Rural Posts" by Mihail Ioniță.

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ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI
(Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

REVENUES & CINDERELLAS

George Pataki

Due to increased interest in Romanian revenues and Cinderellas, we illustrate a number of them. As we do not have enough data on the large number of such stamps and labels issued over the years, and these have been neglected by both collectors and researchers, we invite anybody having information on issue dates and purposes of these items, their denominations, colors, perforations, etc., to send us any available data. In this manner, we will later be able to publish well documented and detailed articles.

For easy reference, we have assigned identification numbers for each type illustrated here. The labels depicted here have nothing in common with postage stamps, except for thier appearence. Under normal circumstances they were not used on mail. Most of them are simply receipts for various mandatory fees or voluntary contributions.

1. Pe-aicea nu se trece! 6 August 1917,
   1 Leu pentru Soc. Frontul Mărășești, red orange, Unwmkd. 14.
2. Cercetașii Romaniei din rasboiul 1916 1919,
   2 Lei, blue green, Unwmkd. 13½.
3. Pentru sinistrați
   1 Leu, scarlet vermilion, Unwmkd. 11½.
4. Dati pentru tuberculoșii din Romania, Unwmkd.
   1 Leu, black, 11½,
   2 Lei, sage green, 11½,
   2 Lei, salmon, 13½.
5. Romania, Timbru Fiscal,
   10 Bani, red brown, 11½, 13½, 11½ x 13½, 13½ x 11½, Unwmkd. or Wmkd ". . NK".
6. Romania, Timbru Fiscal, Unwmkd. 12 8—13. 3 compound.
   50 Bani, grey brown,
   1 Leu, steel blue,
   2 Lei, dull blue,
   3 Lei, dull blue.
7. Romania, Timbru Fiscal, Unwmkd, 13. 25—13. 5 x 13—13. 5,
   1 Leu, purple brown,
   2 Lei, bright blue,
   5 Lei, rose red,
   10 Lei, bright orange,
   20 Lei, blue green.
8. Vindecați rănile de razboi prin Apararea Patriotică, Unwmkd.
   10, bright scarlet, yellowish paper, 11,
   20, light blue, yellowish paper, 11,
   50, bright scarlet, white paper, 11½ x 11
   100, bright blue, pink paper, 11.
9. Marea Fresca a Ateneului Roman, Unwmkd, 14½ x 14,
   Traian, 2 Lei, turquoise green,
   Descalecatoarea, 2 Lei, carmine red,
   Mihai Viteazu, 2 Lei, purple,
   Stefan cel Mare, 2 Lei, grey blue,
   Ferdinand I, 2 Lei, blue,
   Carol II, 20 Lei, chocolate brown.
10. Timbru Judiciar Romania, 13¾ x 14¼,
    5 Lei, carmine lake, Wmkd. XIII,
    20 Lei, bluish violet, Unwmkd.
    100 Lei, blue, Wmkd. XIV.
11. Romania, Ajutorul de iarna 1942, Unwmkd. 14¼ x 13¼,
    5 Lei, dull claret,
    20 Lei, brownish black,
    100 Lei, reddish brown.
12. Romania, Ajutorul de iarna 1942, Ziua mamei si copilului,
    5 Lei, purple brown, Unwmkd. 13. 8 x 14. 3.

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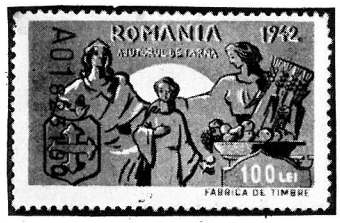

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13. Romania, 3 ani activitate 1940 1943, Consiliul de patronaj, Ajutorul de iarnă,
    40 Lei, brown purple, Wmkd. XIII, 13.8 x 14.3.
14. Romania, 1943 Consiliul de patronaj,
    100 Lei, purple brown, Unwmkd. 14 x 14.3.
15. Totul pentru lecuirea ranilor razboiului, Apararea Patriotica,
    500 Lei, red brown, Unwmkd, 14 x 14¼.
16. Ziua desrobirii,
    20 Lei, carmine red, Wmkd. XIII, 14.3 x 14.
17. Romania, Ajutorul de iarna, 1943 Ziua Ostasului, Unwmkd. 14 x 14¼,
    50 Lei, dull yellow green,
    100 Lei, dull ultramarine.
18. România 1943, Consiliul de patronaj, Ajutorul de iarna, Ziua orfanilor de rasboi, Wmkd. XIII, 13¾ x 14¼,
    20 Lei, deep dull blue,
    50 Lei, chocolate,
    100 Lei, bright rose red.
19. Romania 1944, Wmkd. XIII, 14¼ x 14,
    40 Lei, carmine vermilion,
    100 Lei, steel blue.
20. Timbru, Compozitori, Pictori, Sculptori, Wmkd. "CAS", 14¼ x 14,
    2 Lei, orange red,
    3 Lei, olive green,
    10 Lei, deep gray green,
    20 Lei, violet.

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A MOBILE P.O. MARKING USED ON INTERNATIONAL TRAIN

Gabriel Rado, Str. Pestalozzi No. 18, 1900 Timisoara, Romania.

In my collection, I have an interesting round mobile post office marking reading "BUCURESTI-VELIKA KIKINDA 3". It was used on an international train commuting between Bucharest and Velika Kikinda, Yugoslavia and is dated "12 OCT. 931". The circle's diameter measures 30 mm. and is struck on a postcard franked with a 4 lei Carol II stamp of the 1930 issue (Scott #374).

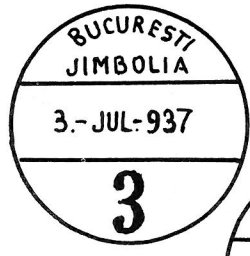
In my opinion, this marking is a (return) counterpart to that mobile post office route which ran from Velika Kikinda to Bucharest and had the number "4". To support this assumption, I mention other railroad post office routes numbered "3" having return routes numbered "4". These travelled on the same line, but had shorter routes:

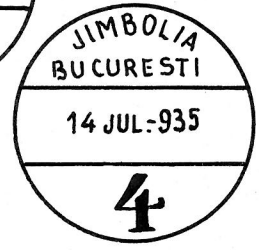
-"BUCURESTI-TIMISOARA 3" dated "22 VIII 928", with a diameter of 31 mm., found on a postcard franked with a 3 lei Ferdinand stamp of the 1925 issue (Scott #275).

-"TEMISOARA-BUCURESTI 4 D", dated "23 NOV. 926", with a diameter of 35 mm., found on a postcard franked with a pair of 1 leu Ferdinand stamps of the 1920 issue (Scott #269).

-"BUCURESTI-JIMBOLIA 3", dated "3 JUL. 937", with a diameter of 31.5 mm. found on a postmarked franked with a 3 lei Carol II stamp of the 1935 issue (Scott #450).

-"JIMBOLIA-BUCURESTI 4", dated "14 JUL. 935", with a diameter of 31.5 mm. found on a 3 lei Carol II postal card issued in 1932 (H & G #92).





Railroad post office markings are not easily found items. Such markings used on international trains are even scarcer.

COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors. **INQUIRIES** regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor

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RUMANIA

Estimate SF

Ottoman Post Offices

30333 ⊙ HIRCHOVO Turkey 1876 1pi with fine central cancel in blue, one straight edge to stamp, fine and v. rare — 1000

30335 ⊠ KALAS – 1854 Cover to Constantinople with blue green negative cancel of Kalas, apparently unique on cover — 2000

30336 ⊙ KUSTENDJE Turkey 1868 1pi yellow with blue cancel, v. fine and rare — 800

30337 ⊙ KUSTENDJE Turkey 10pa fiscal with clear strike, v. fine — 400

30338 ⊙ KUSTENDJE Turkey 10pa fiscal with superb strike, v. fine — 400

30339 ⊙ MATCHIN Turkey 1868 1pi yellow with superb strike in blue, rare — 800

30340 ⊙ MATCHIN – 1870 Turkey 20pa with superb strike in blue, rare — 800

30341 ⊠ MATCHIN – 1892 Cover to Constantinople franked pair 20para tied violet cachet 'Telegraph & Postahanei Matchin' piece cut from cover (possibly another stamp), apparently only piece known,v. rare — 2000

30342 ⊙ MEDJIDIE Turkey 1870 20pa tax (faults) with fine central strike in greenish black, fine and scarce — 800

30343 ⊙ TULCHA Turkey 1870 1pi with light central cancel, usual irregular perfs, fine and rare — 1000

30344 ⊠ 1848 Stampless entire from IBZAILA with arr. cachet 'AN CANIBI POSTAI DERALIYE', v. fine — 500

General issues

30346 ⊙ 1858 54p large margins and neat cancel, an extremely fine example, rare — 2600

30355 ⊠ 1875 Reg. cover to Bordeaux with remarkable franking of 5b(1) + 10b(11) + 25b(14) front and back, various charge marks incl. RECOMMANDEE/GALATZ, neg. cover faults, a choice item, reserve price — 2000

GREECE

Tax issues, Postage dues

31482 ⊠ 1871 Cover to Athens from Braila franked scarce 50b red and blue Greece – 20L (cut at rt.) added as p.due, fine and rare, reserve — 800

AUSTRIAN LEVANT

Bukarest (Rumania)

31741 ⊠ 1864 cover to Vienna franked Lomb. Ven. (perf. 14) 10s + 15s tied BUKAREST 23.4. v. fine signed Calves, Diena — 1800

31742 ⊠ 1864 Folded cover franked Lomb. Ven. (perf. 14) 10s + 15s centrally tied BUKAREST/15.5 v. fine — 1000

31743 ⊠ 1864 L–V 10s + 15s on cover to Vienna tied by central BUCAREST/17.3, few perf. tones, fine, signed Kessler, Ferchenbauer — 600

Galatz (Rumania)

31772 ⊠ 1863 10s (affixed at the back) + 15s (2, one defective) on opened out cover to Vienna cancelled GALATZ 29.4 — 800

31773 △ 1863 Lomb. Ven. 3s(2) used with 1864 5s + 15s pair tied GALATZ/29.12 on fragment, colourful and rare three colour franking from two different issues signed Calves, — 1200

Giurgevo (Rumania)

31774 ⊠ 1863 L–V 10s pair + single on cover to Pesth tied by two clear GIURGEVO/21.6 (Mue 60pts, Sass. 10pts), v. fine and rare, cert. Ferchenbauer — 1800

31775 ⊠ 1864 Lom–Ven 5s + 15s on cover to Vienna tied by central GIURGEVO/17.10 (Mue 60pts), 5s one short perf., attractive and scarce — 800

Ploeschti (Rumania)

31787 △ 1864 L–V 10s (2) tied to fragment by slightly central K.K. OEST. F.P. PLOESCHTI/10.8 (Mue 140 pts. Sass. 11 pts), fine and rare, signed Ferchenbauer — 400

Kustendje (Rumania)

31778 ⊠ 1867 Stampless cover to Costantinople with LLOYD AGENZIE KUSTENDJE and similar cds of Costantinople at the back, rare as stampless — 300

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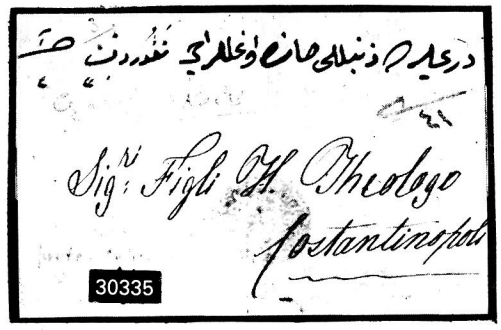
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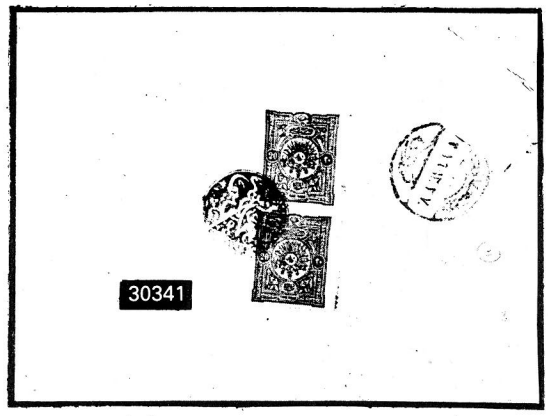
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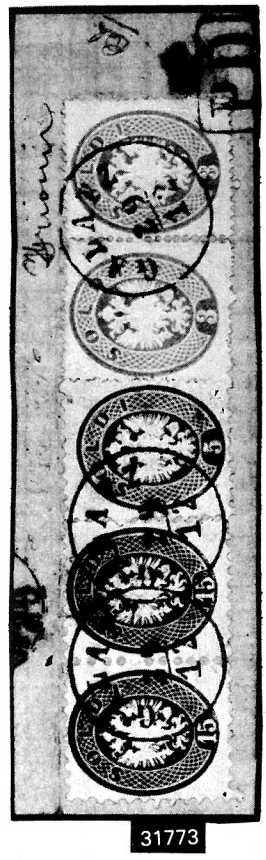
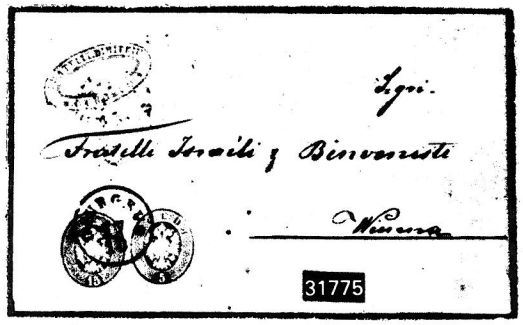
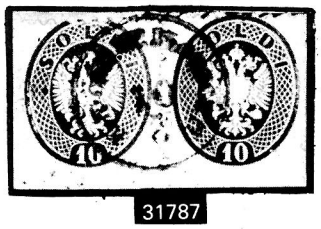
TURKEY

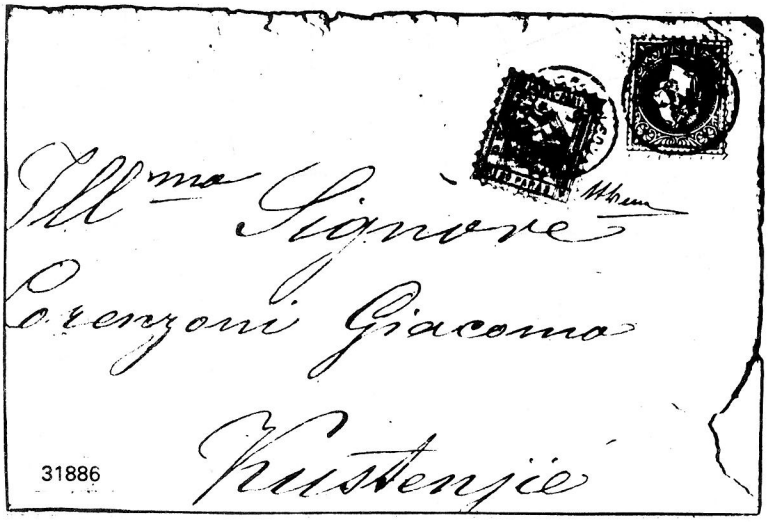
Local Post Issues

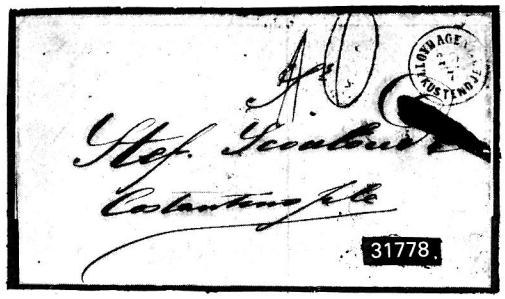
31886 ☒ 1865 Cover from Bucarest to Kustendje bearing 20pa black on green, tied LLOYD AGENZIE/KUSTENDJE/15.6 and Levant 15s tied by BUCAREST/11.6 cds. the 20pa paid the local delivers fee for transfer to the Austrian P.O. This is apparently the only known cover bearing the local railway stamp that travelled to Kustendje as all the other existing covers travelled the opposite direction, A unique item for a great Levant collection, signed Calves, Diena, colour photo 40000











5 Bani "Wheat Ear" Stationery Varieties

Norbert Blistyar, Str. M. Viteazul No. 2A, 1725 Bocşa, Romania.

Three other adhesive stamps of the "Wheat Ear" issue share the basic design of the 5 Bani (Scott #120). The 25 B., 40 B. and 50 B. naturally differ from the 5 B. in denomination. Each has 3 vertical lines in its right column, facing the back of King Carol's head. However, in the left column, which the King's portrait faces, we can find no lines, one, two or three. Fig. 1 shows no lines as found on all 25 B. adhesive, Fig. 2 one line as appears on some 5 B. and all 40 B., Fig. 3 two lines as all 50 B. display, and Fig. 4 three lines as shown on some 5 B. Thus, in the left column of the postage stamps, the 5 B. may have 1 or 3 lines, the 25 B. always has none, the 40 B. always shows 1, while the 50 B. always displays 2.

Most specialized catalogues list or mention the 5 B. blue adhesive as occuring in the aforementioned 2 different types. However, until a few years ago, the green stamp of the same denomination (Scott #136) was known only with the single vertical line. In Filatelia, No. 1/1979, Constantin Marius Jianu's "Spic de Grîu / Tiraje sau Emisiuni?" first reported the existence of the rare 3-line variety on the green stamps (Scott #136) of the August 1900, unwatermarked issue.

During the same period that the "Wheat Ear" postage stamps were current, several classes of postal stationery also bore a 5 B. of the same design. This was imprinted in blue, green or yellow green. In the case of these stationery, unlike for the postage stamps, the catalogues do not distinguish between the 2 types. Both, however, do exist.

Letter cards bearing the blue design (H & G #3) display either 1 line or 3 lines. Postal cards with the 5 B. in blue (H & G #31 & 32) present the same situation (Fig. 5 and 6). As the used postal cards examined were all cancelled in the 1894—1899 period, we have some indication that 2 different cliches (producing the 2 varieties) were utilized simultaneously. The double card (H & G #32) yield even more conclusive evidence. This is known to exist with one card being the single-line type, and the other attached to it the triple-line. Theoretically the combinations possible are:

a) single-line "message" card joined to triple-line "response" card;
b) triple-line "message" card with single-line "response" card;
c) both cards are single line;
d) both cards are triple line.

I have seen combination "a". Furthermore, at least one and possibly both combinations "b" and "c" must exist, as evidenced by a detached triple-line "response" card seen. As the double cards, even when detached, are scarcer than the ordinary single cards, they are certainly more so when found still joined. Therefore, more research is necessary to positively establish which of combinations "b" or "c" exist (if not both), and whether "d" exists at all.

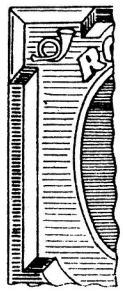


Fig. 1

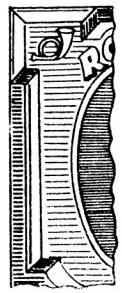


Fig. 2

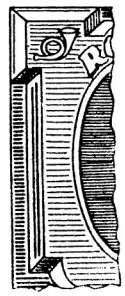


Fig. 3

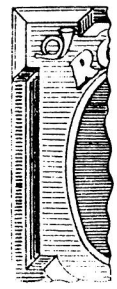


Fig. 4

As far as green and yellow green impressions of the design go, the single-line type heavily predominates. In fact, only H & G #33, the ordinary card with green impression, could be found with a triple-line variety. The one such item located, used in March 1903, conclusively proves the utilization of a triple-line cliche to print at least some postal cards as late as 1899. During that year, the changeover from blue to green occurred. If, indeed, the triple-line cliche remained in use afterwards, other stationery showing this variety may yet be recorded. Those items on which we should be on the lookout for this variety include: postal cards of H & G #34, 35, 35a, 36, 45 and 47; letter cards of H & G #5 and 7 as well as postal money orders of H & G #10-11 and 14-19. Two international money orders, H & G #16, with green printed stamp on yellow paper and black printing, were examined, and both were of the triple-line type. These were printed in 1903/04 thus the triple-line cliche was used as late as 1904. The other money order forms I examined, H & G #10 (for domestic use), 11, 15 and 19 (for international use) were all of the single-line type. Postal card #34 is a green double card, again raising the theoretical possibility of various combinations. Nos. 35 and 35a are illustrated (picture) postal cards bearing greeting, with the stamp impressed in green. On the former the greeting reads "LA MULTI ANI" while the latter's message is "FELICITARI". On H & G #36 and "D" on the first address line is in italics, and the imprinted stamp is green as it is on letter cards H & G #5 and 7. Yellow green is the color of the 5 B. design on H & G postal card #45 and 47, and these feature the "ROMANIA" spelling.

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

What can be found when a search is conducted is often rewarding. A big surprise occurred when one postal card H & G #36 was found with TWO vertical lines in the left column. These lines are positioned identically to those found on the 50 B. adhesive. It is probable that the 50 B. stamp cliche was utilized in printing this card after changing only the denomination. The printing on this card is very clear and not at all fuzzy. This lends, further proof to that already seen from the lines' positioning that this variety cannot be due to a defective cliche. That it definitely represents neither a one-line cliche that somehow had this line doubled, nor a three-line variety on which one did not print.

The author wishes to thank I. Mariuta (of Resita) for allowing him to base his research mainly on his collection. If our readers would examine their own holdings of these items perhaps this research could be extended and the reported findings may clarify what double-card combinations exist.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Romanian Philatelic Studies, Nos.1/1977-4/1983.

Romanian Philatelic Studies was started up in April 1977 and three issues were published during that first year. In each following year, a new issue has been released every three months.

To facilitate specialized study of the published material, this bibliography was compiled by classifying the articles contained in the first 27 issues under 14 categories. In it, titles are followed by the names of the authors and the issue number. The year is given only as the last two digits.

It should be noted that many articles contain information belonging to more than one category. Such are listed under the primary category. For example, a study on counterfeit shipboard markings listed in the "Forgeries & Counterfeits" would also fall in the "Shipboard Markings" category.

Back copies of the last 22 issues (Nos. 3/1978-4/1983) are available at $2.00 each.

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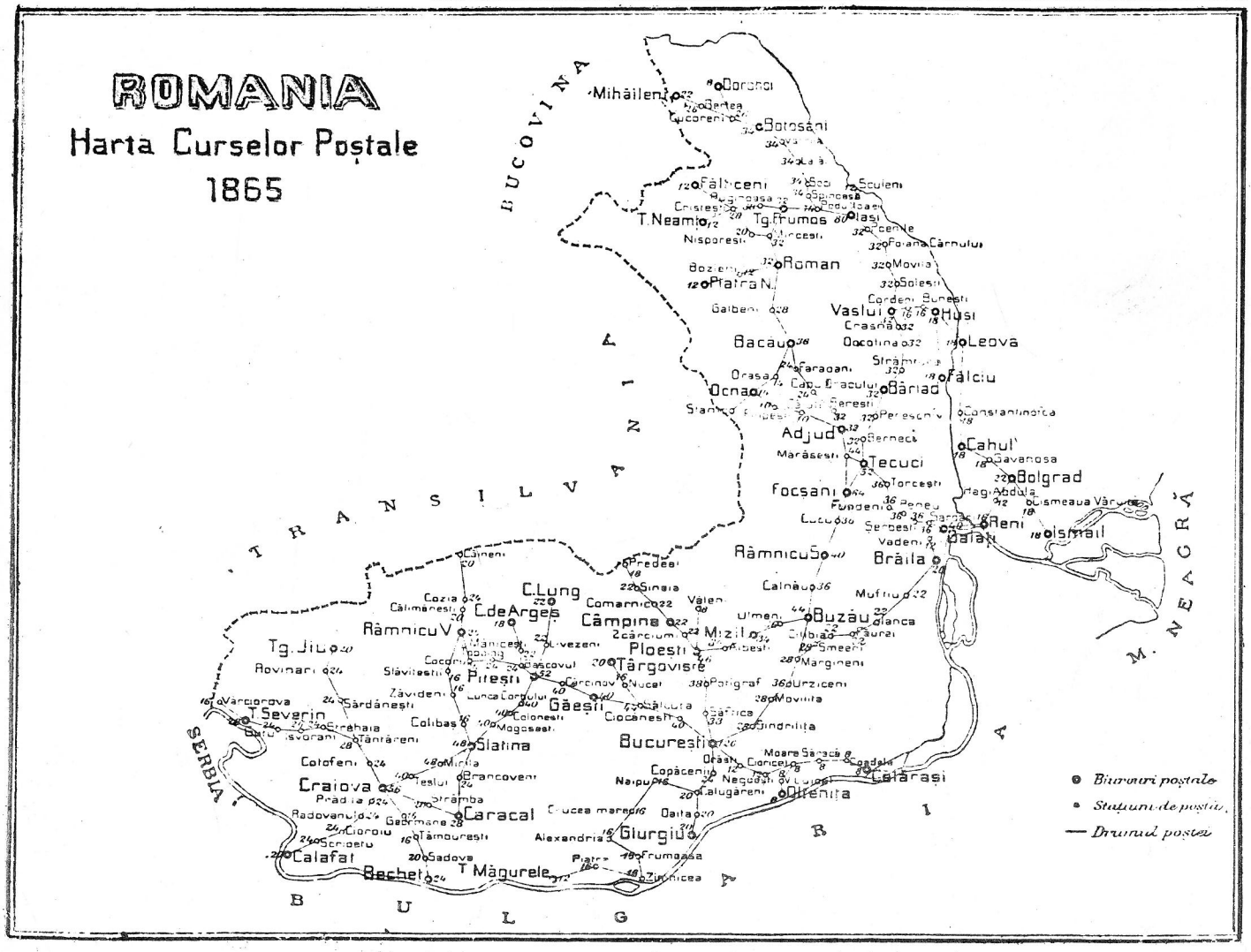
The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.



THE MAP OF THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES
WITH THE POSTAL ROUTES OF 1865
From "The History of the Romanian Posts" by Constantin N. Minescu.

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